مكتبة ابن الأثير

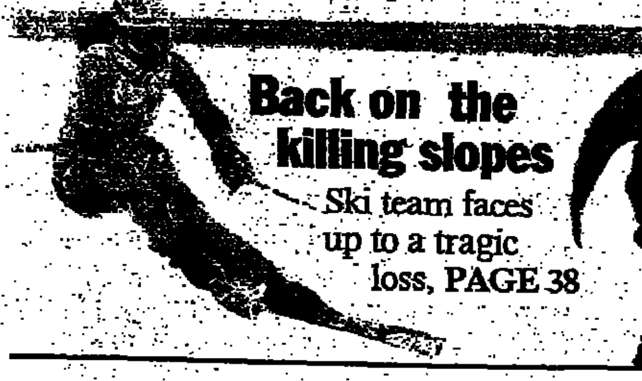
THE TIMES

DIEU ET MON DROIT

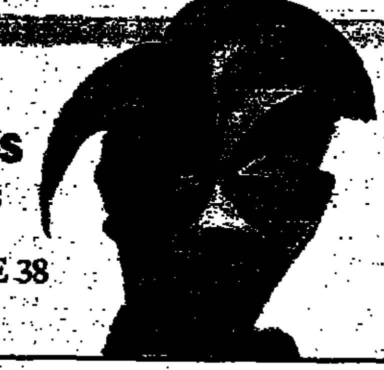
30P

No. 65,492

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2 1996



Back on the killing slopes
Ski team faces up to a tragic loss, PAGE 38



Rediscovery of a Bacon
Is self-portrait the stuff of genius?
PAGES 17 and 29

EDUCATION
Why our universities have been driven to a £300 levy
PAGE 33

Valerie Grove
Thomas Quasthoff and a voice that drowns out disability
PAGE 14

Win free flights

Play The Times Accumulator game
PAGE 33

Leadership challenge ruled out

Buoyant Tory MPs to stick with Major

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

SENIOR Conservatives capitalised on improved party morale last night by formally ruling out any challenge to John Major's leadership before the next general election.

The surprise move came after a series of strong question time performances by the Prime Minister exploiting the Harriet Harman affair, and as the Labour leader himself acknowledged the gains the Tories had reaped from Ms Harman's decision to send her son to grammar school.

The Conservatives were further boosted yesterday when a former Labour policy director suggested that Mr Blair's "stakeholder society" would cost billions of pounds, requiring heavy public sector investment and higher borrowing. The Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, immediately declared that the "real cost of Labour" had been exposed and warned voters to watch their wallets.

Dr Mawhinney meanwhile warmly welcomed the Conservative 1922 Committee executive's decision to suspend the rules governing leadership elections to preclude a challenge in November. He said it was very sensible.

The decision was taken to *prevent renewed speculation* about Mr Major in the Conservatives do badly in the local elections in May. Senior party members said last night that a challenge this year would have been unthinkable, "but that would not have stopped the press writing about one".

In the meantime, the present rules are being reviewed, with many Tory MPs believing that there should be no mechanism at all for a serving Prime Minister to be challenged.

The 1922 decision is evidence of the dramatic change of mood among Tory MPs, who are eagerly awaiting the *next opinion polls to see what* impact the education row has had on their rating. Although most accept that they face an uphill struggle to pull back Labour's lead, they believe that they have been presented with a clear target.

Mr Blair recognised that last night in his first big party speech since Ms Harman said she was sending her son Joseph to St Olave's grammar school in Orpington rather than to a local comprehensive.

> ❛ Routine loyalty, orchestrated *adulation: after a* long interruption, the Tory Party is back on track ❜
> —*Matthew Parris, page 2*

And the storm showed no sign of subsiding as emergency motions were tabled in three of the nine branches in her Peckham constituency demanding she resign from the *Shadow Cabinet*.

In his "meet-the-people" speech in Brentford, Mr Blair addressed the issue head-on as he attacked the Tories. "It was *not a member of the Shadow* Cabinet that lost people their jobs, their homes, their businesses," he said. "It was not an 11-year-old boy that raised their taxes. It was a 17-year-old Government that has made too many mistakes and told too many lies for the public ever to forget or forgive what they have done to our country."

He then sought to turn the hypocrisy charges that had been levelled at his party *against the Tories, saying*: "Theirs is the party that says one thing and does another. They say one thing before the election and they do another afterwards. They are the risk. They are the danger. A Tory fifth term is the nightmare.

"Will you be paying to see a doctor? Will your child be taught in a class of 100? Will you be trapped in negative equity. Will you all be on contracts that mean you can be fired at a moment's notice without explanation?"

Mr Blair had earlier faced further embarrassment when *the former Labour policy director* Roland Wales admitted in the *New Statesman* that the "stakeholder society" would not come cheap. "In the housing *sector alone, it is estimated* that provision of adequate social housing will cost between £10 and £20 billion. How will Labour pay for it?"

Voters wanted more jobs, better schools and better health and housing, Mr Wales wrote. "Awaiting the fruits of growth is unlikely to be enough; a Labour chancellor will have to find the funds to start making good the chronic *public sector-investment gap*, while calming the fears of the markets."

But last night party sources dismissed both his claims and *his role in the party*. "Roland Wales was left out of policy formation when he worked for the Labour Party and from what he said today you can see why," an official said. "He had no input whatsoever into policy making and, even if he wanted them to be, his views were not taken seriously."

Harman revolt, page 10

RICHARD WINTLE

Margaret Webb and her husband Keith with JJ last night after the amicable settlement on the pup's future

Deal on custody ends dogfight

By Tim Jones

A TEARFUL and acrimonious battle *over the ownership of JJ*, a playful and potentially valuable Irish setter pup, was decided yesterday when a judge agreed it could remain with the couple who bought it.

But the six-month-old bitch, registered with the Kennel Club as Goldings Hellebora, will have to return in 18 months to where she was born to give birth to a litter. In a settlement which mirrors *complicated divorce case access* agreements, both sides will have the right to visit the dog when it is not with them.

The saga began last October *when* Margaret Webb of Swindon, Wiltshire, was presented with the puppy by her *children* who had clubbed together £350 to buy it to help her overcome a serious illness.

Three days later, Biddy Evans, who with her husband George runs the Fosse Dogotel and Cattery near Cirencester, rang to say she had mistakenly sold them a bitch instead of a dog and wanted it back.

Yesterday, minutes before the *warring* parties were due to continue their battle at Swindon County Court, their solicitors reached an agreement which Judge John McNaught doubted could have been resolved by litigation.

Once JJ comes into season after her second birthday Mrs Evans will have the right to take her away for a week to be mated with a stud dog.

Then, eating only food approved of by Mrs Evans, JJ will spend eight weeks of her pregnancy with the Webb family, before returning to the Dogotel to give birth.

JJ will spend ten weeks there with her pups before being returned to Mrs Webb. *If the mating is successful and* produces at least three puppies, including one satisfactory breeding bitch which Mrs Evans will keep, the tug of love *will end*.

If JJ fails in her first mating to meet the terms of the settlement she will return to Dogotel for one more try. Mrs Webb will have the right to one of her puppies.

During her absences, both sides will have the right to go and see JJ and take their vet with them if they wish. On these visits, both parties have agreed "to act fairly and reasonably".

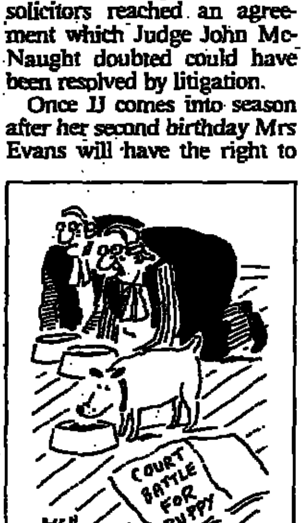
Because JJ's lineage and pedigree could make her litter very valuable the Webbs have agreed to take special care to ensure she does not have a brief and fatal encounter with a mongrel.

In addition, to ensure JJ will never be substituted for a less valuable look-a-like she will have an identifying microchip inserted under her skin.

Dominic Kelly, Mrs Webb's solicitor, would not comment *on suggestions that JJ*, known to Mrs Evans as Flora, was valued at up to £10,000.

After the agreement Mrs Webb, 48, said: "I am delighted. *These past few months* have been a nightmare. We love JJ and she has bonded with our other red setter."

Mrs Evans claimed she would never have sold JJ to the couple if she had known that they were unemployed as keeping a pedigree dog costs hundreds of pounds a year.



"This is the last time I do a client lunch"

Credit card code cracked to trade on Internet

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

THE Internet is set to become a multi-billion pound world superstore. Two leading credit *card companies yesterday* announced that they have developed a way of making safe payments over the electronic computer network that encircles the globe.

Experts are predicting that within four years the computer *purchase of goods from* wine and cars to computer games and information services could grow from a £350 million-a-year business to £200 billion.

Until now development of the Internet for shopping has been hampered by the difficulty of ensuring that electronic payments are secure from hackers and credit card fraudsters. Most computer *shopping is done over private* networks run by firms like Compuserve.

But the breakthrough by Visa and Mastercard with *help from firms* like Bill Gates's Microsoft and RSA Data Security, opens up shopping and commerce to millions. "This is the first step in making cyberspace an attractive venture for banks and merchants," said Edmund Jensen, president and chief executive of Visa international, which has 442 million cardholders.

The Internet could also be a *boon for entrepreneurs with* good ideas and novel products but no big budgets to advertise their wares in the traditional ways.

The secure payments system requires someone using the Internet to have special software which will be embedded in standard products like Windows 95. When the user dials the credit card details into the computer, the software scrambles the numbers into a code which is transmitted to the seller.

Reform of Nato urged by Chirac

President Chirac, on the first state visit to America by a French leader in 12 years, has proposed a transatlantic charter to reform Nato and place more responsibility for security on Europe.

In his address to a joint meeting of Congress, M Chirac called for a renewed *partnership*. He said American commitment, both militarily and politically, was still essential to the stability of a growing Europe, but he emphasised that Washington need not always play an active role. Solidarity was "the best security".......Page 13

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

Buying The Times overseas: Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 80; Canada $3.25; Canaries Pes 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Irish Republic 45p; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

05

9 770140 046251

Songwriters deprived of royalties

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THOUSANDS of composers and songwriters have been deprived of income by inefficiency and poor management at the Performing Rights Society, which collects royalties on *their behalf, a government* report concluded yesterday.

The report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission found that the society, Britain's only licensing body for composers and songwriters, operated in a monopoly situation and against the public interest.

The MMC's year-long inquiry into the society was prompted by long-running *complaints from both* struggling and well-known composers, including Lionel Bart, who wrote *Oliver*, and the Irish rock group U2. The Dublin band has started legal proceedings to challenge the society's right to collect royalties for live performances.

Under the live royalty system, introduced three years *ago, the society records details* of performances at 500 large venues and then uses this as a yardstick for all halls. Writers of classical and minority forms of music allege that this ignores many performances of their work in small halls.

The society, founded by a group of music hall composers in 1914, raises more than £150 million in royalties for its 29,000 members.

John Taylor, competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, said that the MMC report had found "evidence of inefficiency arising from deficiencies in corporate structure and management practices". The MMC was "not convinced that the society's practice of exclusivity is so essential that no further exceptions can be allowed," he added.

A spokeswoman for the MMC said: "Lots of money that the society has been collecting has gone into administration, rather than to the artists."

The MMC report makes *more than 40 recommendations*, aimed largely at improving the society's efficiency and its accountability to composers and songwriters. The Director-General of Fair Trading has now given the the society four months in which to implement the reforms.

Dominic McGonigal, performer and composer adminstrator at the Incoporated Society of Musicians, which represents composers, welcomed the findings. "Their administra*tion costs got up to 20 per cent* of what they collected. We regard this as high and would like to see it reduced to 12 to 15 per cent."

Terri Anderson, a spokeswoman for the society, said that over a third of the actions *proposed in the report had* already been met.

John Hutchinson, who was appointed chief executive of the society last November, said: "Publication of the report will add a spur to the total strategic review of the business, which is planned for 1996."

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Money made easy
How to make the most of Tessas:
free 16-page guide

Winners and losers
with the *Alliance & Leicester*, in
Weekend Money

PLUS Vision, the
TV and radio guide

UFO 'buzzed' airliner at Manchester airport

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A BRITISH Airways passenger jet had a close encounter with an unidentified flying object while landing at *Manchester airport*, an official report disclosed last night.

The Boeing 737, with 60 people on board, was overtaken at high speed by a wedge-shaped craft as the plane *descended through 4,000ft on the final* stages of a journey from Milan. Captain Roger Wills reported that the UFO, which was emblazoned with small white lights and possibly a black stripe down its side, flashed silently down the side of *the jet so close that* his co-pilot, First Officer Mark Stuart, involuntarily ducked as it went by.

There was no sound and no wake but both pilots were so concerned that they filed a formal "airmiss" report. The Civil Aviation Authority launched *an* investigation, the fourth such incident since 1987, and after a year-long inquiry concluded yesterday that they could find no likely explanation. The three previous reported sightings also baffled the CAA experts.

The incident happened at 6.48pm on January 6 last year with the aircraft just above the clouds and visibility at least ten miles. Then air traffic controllers had the following conversation with Flight 5061:

B737: "We just had something go down the right hand side, just above us very fast."

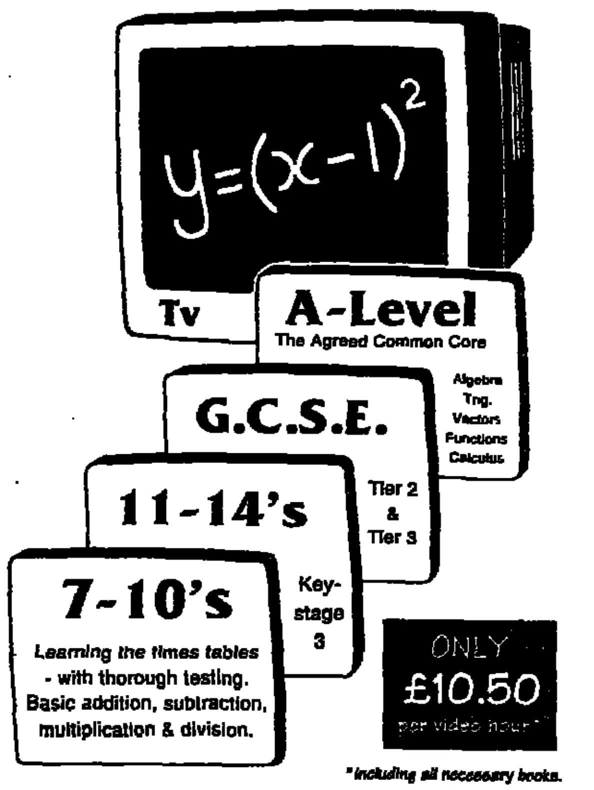
Manchester: "Well there's nothing seen on radar. Was it an aircraft?"

B737: "Well, it had lights, it went down the starboard side very quick"

Captain Wills and First Officer Stuart are certain that the object was solid and not a balloon, a model aircraft or even a military "Stealth" aircraft which the captain had seen *before and would have recognised*.

Both pilots should be commended for their courage in submitting a report, the investigators said.

MATHS on VIDEO
with BOOKS



ONLY £10.50 per video hour*

*including all necessary books. Each video hour is equivalent to between 2 and 4 normal tuition hours.

Cap & Gown Series
THE MATHEMATICS SPECIALISTS

For FREE brochure/prices tel: 01785 713560
or return the slip to: Cap & Gown Series,
P.O. Box 14, Penkridge, Stafford, ST19 5SQ

Please tick: 7-10's ☐ 11-14's ☐ GCSE ☐ A-Lev ☐

Mr/Mrs/Miss: ____________________

Address: ____________________

____

__________ Postcode: ________ / 2-2

TV & RADIO..........38, 39
WEATHER..........20
CROSSWORDS..........20, 40
LETTERS..........17
OBITUARIES..........19
BERNARD LEVIN..........16
ARTS..........29-31
CHESS & BRIDGE..........35
COURT & SOCIAL..........18
SPORT..........34-38, 40
EDUCATION..........33
BUSINESS NEWS..........21-28

هكذا من الاصل

Jolly jesters are in the mood for auto-slaver

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

The guffaws came to order, like canned laughter in a TV comedy show. Government backbenchers cheered John Major's arrival, cheered his departure, and fluttered their order papers in a closing ceremony that might have been rehearsed for an American football game.

Routine loyalty, orchestrated adulation: after a long interruption, the Tory party is back on track, locked in cruise-control, stuck on auto-slaver. What will have impressed the party managers at PM's Questions yesterday afternoon was not the way the Tories cheered the Prime Minister's good jokes, but the way they cheered his awful ones, too. The synchronised panting of the poodles, the gentle slurp of the wet tongue against the brogue shoe ... these, like leather on willow, are music to a Chief Whip's ears.

If, in his dark days last spring, John Major had performed as yesterday, there would have been a few ragged cheers from his friends, no more. But now we shall report that he had another good day, Tony Blair another frustrating one. The change lies not in performance, but in mood.

Blair and Major stalked into the chamber, one after the other and almost in step, during a question to the agricultural minister about pigs. It is not clear whether they chose pigs especially for their entrance fanfare, but the minister looked up from the dispatch box, startled by the passion his opinion on pig stalls seems to have triggered, as a rather complicated answer on the tethering of sows suddenly elicited a small cheer, then a larger one. Blair and Major sat down and adopted wise expressions as the minister ploughed on with his advice on pig husbandry.

First up, the brilliantined Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes (C. Wimbledon) placed adoringly at the Prime Minister's feet a little fact he had discovered about trade union support for private hospitals. Mr Major found this fact "fascinating". Cue canned laughter.

Tony Blair, lips pursed, droned on for a while about administrative costs in the health service, and Major commented that the NHS had been "undermanaged". At that, Labour was supposed to howl, giving Major his cue to say "not my words, Madam Speaker ..." and explain that the phrase was Margaret Beckett's. In fact Labour did not howl, but Major went ahead with his joke anyway, and the Tories roared with laughter anyway.

Blair now tried the same trick, offering advice on the NHS then demanding: "Are you prepared to tell the Secretary of State to do as I ask?" At this, the Tories were supposed to jeer (they did), prompting Blair's reply "not my words, Madam Speaker ..." and the hilarious revelation that a Tory had said this.

Really, this is getting ridiculous. What next? Will Blair say "Chilly, for the time of year *[cue Labour yelp]*. Not my words, Madam Speaker, but those of Michael Heseltine last Wednesday" *[Labour MPs fall about]*? Mr Blair's scriptwriting team do not seem to have grasped the point about these jokes: the phrase in question has to sound something you would not expect the other side to have said. Permit this column to explain that it's no good finding any old phrase. It has to be topical, and helpful, to Labour's argument.

Mr Major then hit off one goodish joke welcoming Labour boroughs with shares in privatised industries "to the stockbroker belt", and one not so good joke, noting that the Labour leader had provided Harriet Harman with "an assisted place" in the Cabinet. Both were greeted with wild Tory laughter. But then "nothing succeeds like success".

Not my words, Madam Speaker ...

GPs and foreign staff drafted in

Hospitals struggle with shortage of casualty doctors

By Jeremy Laurance and Joanna Bale

CASUALTY departments are facing the worst shortage of doctors that can be recalled and are struggling to remain open during the winter peak demand, consultants said yesterday.

The British Medical Association said there was a "desperate crisis looming" which was already leaving some casualty departments dangerously understaffed.

In areas such as Essex where recruitment is difficult, hospitals are having to offer "golden hellos" worth £2,000 to attract junior doctors and nurses. Some hospitals have hired GPs. Many are recruiting from the Continent, South Africa and Australia.

There has been a sharp rise in emergency admissions, estimated at 13 per cent last year, and a shortage of hospital beds. The BMA reported last month that casualty departments had been forced to close temporarily because they had no empty beds.

The reduction in junior doctors' hours and the ending of the compulsory requirement for trainee surgeons to spend time working in casualty have contributed to the shortage. An extra 2,500 senior house-officer posts have been created but there are insufficient graduates to fill them.

Dr Howard Baderman, consultant in charge of accident and emergency at London's University College Hospital, said: "I understand that juniors are being offered £1,000 when they take up the six-month contract and then £1,000 on completion."

Dr Helen Cugnoni, consultant in Accident and Emergency at the Royal London Hospital, said the department had failed to fill all its 24 posts. "We are a teaching hospital. Other hospitals are likely to be worse off. I have never known such difficulties recruiting junior staff."

Hospitals are resorting to various measures:

☐ Mayday Hospital, Croydon, has agreed a £100,000 deal with local GPs to ease the burden on the Accident and Emergency Department; GPs take over the treatment of minor injuries.

☐ At the Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, GPs work in casualty at weekends.

☐ Edgware Hospital, in Middlesex, has three of six junior doctor posts to fill in its casualty department. Having advertised in journals, it is to try medical locum agencies.

☐ Peterborough Hospitals Trust in Cambridgeshire had to pay GPs £400 a night to staff casualty departments. After several months and recruiting from abroad, their posts are now full.

Langlands: says doctors are working round clock

Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, admitted last month that casualty departments were strained to the limit. In an interview in the *Health Service Journal* he said: "I'm constantly seeing A&E departments under pressure. It's a long time since I have seen an A&E consultant wearing a shirt and tie. They are at it day in and day out."

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday admitted that the Accident and Emergency service faced problems but said they were not unexpected. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to work out that if you have fewer people working shorter hours you need more people around."

"That is exactly why my colleague Gerald Malone [the Health Minister] convened a meeting just before Christmas to see what can be done," he said. Mr Malone announced that restrictions on A&E departments appointing staff-grade doctors would be lifted, and an inquiry into giving GPs a greater role in treating minor injuries.

Mr Dorrell was speaking on Radio 4's *The World at One* in response to a survey by Dr Ian Stewart, consultant in Accident and Emergency at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, who had said that up to one in five junior doctor posts would fall vacant in casualty by next week. Junior doctors traditionally switch to new jobs on the first Monday in February.

Nokia Digital Security. Cellphones Direct Prices!

LIMITED OFFER
£9.99
INC. VAT
FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE PersonalWorld

NOKIA
GSM MODEL 2010.
- 99 name/number memory
- 100 mins talk-time
- 30 hrs standby-time
- Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
- Weight approx 320g

FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR/CHARGER
FREE SPARE BATTERY
FREE LEATHER CASE
TOGETHER WORTH OVER £75

Trust Cellphones Direct to make a world of difference to digital phone prices. With FREE connection to the Vodafone PersonalWorld Tariff, so you can use the phone throughout the UK, most of Europe and beyond on the GSM international network. With digital call clarity and absolute confidentiality.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone plus valuable extras within 4 working days.

FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD

Monthly Rental	£17.63 (£15+VAT)
Peak Rate Calls UK Wide	42p per min (35p+VAT)
Off Peak Calls	18p per min (15p+VAT)

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones direct

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT TO HAND WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 3845. (SORRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS)

Offer subject to status and a standard airtime contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 2395222.

BRIAN LITTLE

An RUC officer clashes with a mourner at the funeral of Gino Gallagher in Belfast

Adams raises lone voice against all-party polls

By Martin Fletcher in Washington and Nicholas Wood

GERRY ADAMS was in danger of isolation last night in his opposition to elections in Northern Ireland. As the Sinn Fein president entered critical talks in Washington with the Clinton administration, Dublin appeared to be backpedalling on its outright opposition to elections as the passport to all-party negotiations about a permanent peace settlement.

Britain was hoping that Tony Lake, National Security Adviser to President Clinton, would put pressure on Mr Adams to drop his "implacable" opposition to elections as the next step in the search for peace. President Clinton was expected to "drop by" on the talks — a prospect that raised British expectations that the Administration was "sweetening" its message that Mr Adams should accept elections as a passport to all-party talks.

Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, emerged from four hours of talks in London with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to concede that John Major's counter-proposal to last week's Mitchell report recommending decommissioning during all-party talks remained in play.

"The reservations still remain but at the same time we are prepared to discuss the proposals," Mr Spring told a news conference. Last week, he condemned the British plan as a "cul de sac".

Irish government sources admitted that although details and obstacles to progress had still to be resolved, the plan for an elected body as a platform for all-party talks had not been ruled out. In another sign that London and Dublin are working overtime to heal last week's rift, the two ministers agreed to hold a further meeting in Dublin next Wednesday. There was more violence in Ulster yesterday as mourners clashed with the RUC at the funeral of a leading republican who was shot dead in Belfast earlier this week.

The funeral of Gino Gallagher, the reputed leader of the Irish National Liberation Army, had to be postponed until today after scuffles broke out outside his house in Belfast as police tried to prevent him being given a paramilitary send-off.

☐ A university lecturer, who is a self-confessed member of the IRA, lost his appeal against conviction yesterday for plotting to bomb mainland Britain. Feilim O'Hadhmaill, who was jailed for 25 years in 1994 after being caught with bombs, Semtex, arms and ammunition, claimed that he did not get a fair trial at the Old Bailey.

Safety checks cast new doubt on Tornado

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

AN RAF flight safety team has expressed concern about the combat turning capability of the air force's frontline Tornado F3 jet.

After an investigation into engineering practices and operational procedures for the Tornado air defence aircraft, an "airworthiness review team" from the RAF's Inspectorate of Flight Safety has made numerous recommendations.

The air defence variant of the Tornado, from which the F3 was developed, flew for the first time in October 1979. In recent years, there have been reports of "bits" falling off during turning, including long-range fuel tanks.

The recommendations are being examined by RAF staff and will not be published. Twenty-two Tornados, of both versions, have been lost in accidents since 1990. Last month three crashed, including two F3s that collided at about 14,000ft soon after take-off from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire. The four crewmen survived.

A board of inquiry was set up and is not due to report for many months but witnesses said the two Tornados collided after one had completed a large turning circle.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is considering whether to spend about £120 million updating the Tornado F3 with new missile systems or to lease American F16s until the new Eurofighter combat aircraft comes into service early next century.

The report from the RAF safety team is likely to play a part in Mr Portillo's deliberations, although British defence industry sources appear confident that the Defence Secretary will reject the F16 option. Independent advisers to Mr Portillo have been pushing hard to lease the American jets, arguing that the Tornado F3s are difficult to service and have poor manoeuvrability.

Supporters of the F3 upgrade programme, which include the RAF board, insist that the new air-to-air missiles will make the air defence jet much more capable because they will be stand-off weapons which can be fired a long way from the target.

However, the air safety team from the RAF, which included an F3 pilot, examined the Tornado's flying capability, not its weapon systems and raised doubts about turning at speed.

The special review teams from the Inspectorate of Flight Safety have already inspected the Chinook helicopter and the Harrier GR5/7 and have started an examination of the Puma helicopter. The airworthiness reviews were set up in the early 1990s after concerns over a series of problems with the Chinook.

Asylum details must be disclosed

Ministers were yesterday ordered to disclose details of discussions with the Government of Dominica about providing asylum for the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari. Judge Pearl, at an Immigration Appellate Authority hearing, directed the Home Secretary to release information surrounding the case. Dr Masari's attempt to postpone a full hearing of his appeal against removal from Britain has been refused.

'Sex tours' review

A legal loophole that allows British criminals to escape punishment for offences abroad is to be examined in a full review ordered by the Home Secretary. The study is aimed at the growing "sex tourism" industry in which people travel abroad and commit sexual offences against children.

Fossilised flower

Fossils of what could be the oldest flowering plant have been found in Kent. The 10in plant, like a water buttercup, dates from 130 million years ago and was found by Dr Ed Jarzembowski, keeper of natural history at Maidstone Museum. It has been thought flowering plants did not develop until much later.

Scott publication

The long-awaited report of the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair is to be published on Febuary 15. The findings of the investigation, which may heavily criticise ministers, will be released under the terms of the 1840 Parliamentary Papers Act, which will prevent individuals from suing.

Police win say

The Home Office made further concessions to the police about who controls MI5 operations in fighting organised crime. The Bill outlining the Security Service's new role was changed to make clear that a senior police officer will be involved in arranging the co-ordination of MI5 activities.

School code call

The Government was urged to publish a code of practice for supply agencies after a temporary teacher allegedly lashed out at seven-year-olds for not listening to a story. The woman was said to have slapped two boys around the face and pulled a girl's hair at a primary school in South Woodford, east London.

Pub killings

Michael Murray, 44, a taxi firm boss from Selsey, West Sussex, was convicted of shooting two men at point-blank range with a revolver. Maidstone Crown Court found him guilty of the murders of Sean Farrelly, 24, and Jason Connors, 22, who were shot in the temples in the Star Gazer pub in Selsey.

Six life terms

A paranoid schizophrenic who killed two people and attacked others after a locum released him from hospital was given six life sentences yesterday. Wayne Hutchinson, 21, a drug dealer in Brixton, south London, was convicted at the Old Bailey of manslaughter, attempted murder and wounding.

Skippy down

Skippy, the Tiger Moth following Alan Cobham's 1926 route to South Africa, suffered engine failure eight miles out to sea after leaving Brindisi, southern Italy, yesterday. Tony Richards, the pilot, managed to glide to safety on a firing range but then came under fire from the Italian air force.

Bottomley to hold talks on sports coverage

By Nicholas Wood

URGENT consultations on television coverage of premier sporting events will be announced by the Government today.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, will try to defuse a looming political row over satellite broadcasters monopolising national sporting occasions, such as the Wimbledon finals, by publishing a discussion paper. She will also invite broadcasters, the sports authorities, viewers' organisations and sportsmen and women to meetings over the next few weeks.

The BBC and ITV, backed by a cross-party campaign led by Labour, want the Government to ban subscription television services from acquiring exclusive rights to eight "listed events": the Olympic Games, the Derby, the Grand National, the Wimbledon finals, Test matches in England, the football World Cup, the FA Cup Final and the Scottish FA Cup Final.

Mrs Bottomley will try to concentrate the debate on the need to balance the widest public access to great sporting occasions with the freedom of sporting bodies to sell television rights to the highest bidder.

However, it is understood that privately she is opposed to "heroic change" in the existing arrangements, which in practice debar satellite braodcasters such as BSkyB, partly owned by News International, parent company of *The Times*, from making significant inroads. Her stance has been bolstered by the decision of the International Olympic Committee to sign a deal with the BBC giving it coverage of the Games until 2008. Her paper is likely to point out that most of the eight events are already the subject of contracts with terrestial broadcasters and are not up for negotiation in the immediate future.

Mrs Bottomley is understood to believe that fundamental changes in the rules covering television rights can be postponed until the digital television revolution planned for the turn of the century comes about.

The new technology will create about 20 terrestrial channels and will greatly expand BBC and ITV outlets. She is said to believe that the advent of this new framework could prove the catalyst for a free market in big sporting events.

Her paper will say that many members of the public see events such as Wimbledon as an important part of the national heritage and one that should be available as widely as possible. But that has to be balanced against the boost to sports facilities and coaching for young people that can flow from sporting bodies securing the full market rate for their star events.

Mrs Bottomley's hand has been forced by amendments to the Broadcasting Bill, now in the Lords, tabled by Labour with cross-party support.

Lord Donoughue, Labour's national heritage spokesman in the Lords, said: "Together with Lord Howell [the former Labour sports minister] and leading peers from all parties, we are seeking to prevent anyone having a monopoly on the live showing of any of the eight listed events. We don't want to ban Sky from showing them but we will ensure that they will not have a monopoly."

Footballer jailed for butting opponent escapes ban

Ferguson: served six weeks in prison for the offence

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE Everton footballer Duncan Ferguson yesterday won his legal battle to overturn a 12-match ban for head-butting another player. The ruling could pave the way for more sporting bodies to be challenged in the courts.

A judge has ruled that the Scottish Football Association's disciplinary committee acted beyond its powers in punishing the £4 million striker for an offence that happened nearly two years ago when he was playing for Rangers. Ferguson served six weeks of a three-month jail sentence for the assault.

Lord Macfadyen said the punishment should be lifted in a judgment released yesterday at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

The successful judicial review in the Scottish courts is thought to be the first in Britain against a sporting body. Courts in England and Wales — which have taken a more restrictive view of the boundaries of judicial review — do not have to follow it. But lawyers believe it will have influence.

Edward Grayson, a sports law barrister and author of *Sport and the Law*, said: "Sports bodies have always been held to be non-public bodies, although they do have public functions. There have been a number of complaints against sporting administrative bodies, including the Aga Khan against the Jockey Club over the disqualification of his winning racehorse, Aliysa, and the Football League against the Football Association over its establishing of a premier league. But they have all failed."

Mr Grayson said perhaps the English courts would follow suit and there could be a rash of similar challenges to the decisions of sporting bodies.

Ferguson head-butted John McStay, a Raith Rovers player, during a match at Ibrox in April 1994. Ferguson's lawyers argued at a court hearing earlier this month that the SFA's disciplinary committee had not complied with the rules in imposing the 12-match ban and so had no powers to do so.

The lawyers said that under the association's rule book, the committee could impose punishment only in exceptional cases of a player's misconduct. This punishment had to be "additional": it could be imposed only where the player had been booked by the referee.

But as Ferguson had not been punished by the referee during the game for the offence, there had been no original punishment and so the committee could not impose an additional one, his lawyers said.

The SFA opposed the argument. But Lord Macfadyen said in the conclusion of his judgment yesterday that the committee had acted *ultra vires* in its attempt to deal with Ferguson's conduct "in an incident which was not reported by any of the match officials and in respect of which there was no scale penalty incurred.

"It follows that the severe censure and 12-match suspension which they imposed were invalid and of no effect." He said he would therefore rule in favour of the player.

Blair Morgan, Mr Ferguson's solicitor, said that the outcome was the end of a long nightmare for the player. "He is delighted he is able to resume his playing career. If the decision had gone against him, he would potentially have missed the next seven games.

"He is back to playing and back to match fitness. A different result today would have been a setback. He can resume his career with Everton and Scotland. He is exceptionally pleased, it is the end of a very unpleasant period of his life."

Joe Royle, the manager of Everton, said he was delighted that Ferguson's ban had been lifted. "We are all delighted for Duncan, the club and the fans," he told Radio City in Liverpool. "Let's just get on with the football now.

"It has been hanging over his head and we are delighted. We don't want to say too much more apart from that because the thing has dragged on for so long and we want to keep it as low-key as possible."

Footballer banned, page 40

Part-timers killed in explosion were wrongly told boy was trapped in upstairs room

Two firemen die after going back into empty house

By Richard Duce

TWO part-time firemen died inside a blazing house yesterday after wrongly being told that a young boy was trapped inside. Stephen Griffin and Kevin Lane were killed when a sudden explosion wrecked the terraced house in the former mining village of Blaina, Gwent.

They had already brought out one five-year-old boy — who later died — but then went back inside believing that his younger brother was trapped.

Terry Glossop, Gwent Chief Fire Officer, said: "There was no one else in the house but these two firemen did not think for a minute of their own safety before going back into the building. We are all dreadfully shocked and saddened."

Other members of the fire crew, who witnessed the deaths of their colleagues, are to be offered counselling. They were in tears yesterday as they stood outside the charred shell of the two-bedroom house on a new housing estate at the edge of Blaina.

Mr Griffin, 42, a married hospital porter with two children, and Mr Lane, 32, a factory worker, who leaves a wife and eight-year-old son, both lived in the village. Blaina residents are planning to set up a fund to help the families of the two men.

The wrecked house in which three died

Both men, who earned a £1,500 annual retainer, were called out at 6am to tackle the fire which broke out at the house where Catherine Hardford, a single mother in her 20s, lived with her two sons, Daniel, five and Joshua, four.

The deaths of the two part-time firemen takes the number of firefighters lost to 20 since 1990. There are 14,792 retained firefighters in England and Wales, who, apart from their retainer, receive £10.50 for the first hour of an incident and £5 an hour for subsequent hours.

Mr Griffin's widow Margaret said last night: "He was dedicated to the job. He knew the risks involved. He was on call last night and went out as normal last night but he never came back."

Flags flew at half mast yesterday over the borough council offices as an investigation was launched into how the fireman died. It appeared that a neighbour believed Joshua was still inside the house but he had escaped with his mother. The two firemen, wearing breathing apparatus and carrying a hose reel, went back into the house in search of the boy.

As they climbed the stairs an explosion threw them backwards into the sitting room which was already burning fiercely. The men died in spite of their colleagues' efforts to save them.

Mr Glossop said: "The whole thing is a tragedy, but the worst aspect of all was that the information they were given was wrong. They acted in good faith and thought they were trying to save a life."

The Blaina fire crew last summer showing Stephen Griffin, back row, left, and Kevin Lane, front row, right

Bernard Assinder, the leader of Blaenau Gwent Borough Council, paid tribute to Mr Griffin, whom he knew socially. "He was a genuinely nice guy, an ordinary family man. The same goes for Kevin. They were just ordinary guys doing a job they valued."

At the village fire station colleagues of the dead firemen were still on duty yesterday. The station, which until yesterday had never lost a firefighter, normally has a full complement of 12 part-timers, operating a single appliance. Chris Brown, the full-time station officer, said: "If there is a call out today we will respond as we always do. The men are dedicated to the job."

David Bishop, Mr Lane's brother-in-law, said: "Kevin was devoted to the fire service. When he joined it was a new venture in his life. He had discovered some way he could help people." Annette Edwards, a neighbour, said Mrs Harford had been asleep in the sitting room with Joshua when the fire broke out. Daniel was trapped upstairs.

"She was in such a state of shock that she just sat there staring ahead. The firemen were incredibly brave."

Daniel, a pupil at St Mary's Roman Catholic school in Brymawr, was brought out by firemen but died despite attempts to revive him. Evelyn Wilce, the school's headmistress, said: "The staff are deeply shocked and saddened by this terrible tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families."

Request for a waitress was sexual prejudice

By Stephen Farrell

A HOTELIER was found guilty yesterday of discriminating against men for saying he wanted to hire a waitress. John Tatum was taken to an industrial tribunal for sex discrimination even though he eventually hired a man.

Mr Tatum, 47, made the passing remark to a jobcentre official after becoming tired of unkempt men turning up for interviews at the hotel he owns in Sandown, Isle of Wight. The official reported his comment and the Equal Opportunities Commission decided to take action. He will not be fined.

The tribunal in Southampton heard that Mr Tatum had telephoned the Shanklin Jobcentre last March to withdraw his advertisement for staff after receiving a number of unsuitable applicants. Rachel Badman, the official, said he told her: "I have had several scruffy men with rings through their noses or covered in tattoos. What I want is presentable females."

Mr Tatum told the tribunal he had been unhappy with the quality of applicants from the jobcentre. "There was one man they sent with dirty fingernails, bells hanging from his ears, who came in shouting across the hallway: 'I've come for the job, mate.' "

Egyptian wine kills British tourist

By Staff Reporters

A BRITISH holidaymaker fell into a coma and died after drinking three glasses of Egyptian red wine contaminated with methanol.

Charlotte Common, 55, a widow, was staying in an apartment near Cairo with two friends when she bought the bottle of Egyptian Cabernet Sauvignon from a supermarket. She drank it with a meal alone in the flat. The next day she was taken by friends to a hospital in Cairo but lapsed into a coma.

Mrs Common, from Washington, Tyne and Wear, was flown home by air ambulance but never regained consciousness and died on January 9.

Yesterday Pamela Denis, who is still at the Abu Kessem apartments where Mrs Common fell ill, said: "We are very upset. I have been a friend for 20 years. The wine was bought from a local supermarket which is very popular with the British Embassy."

Methanol can be used as a cheap substitute for alcohol. Several people have died from drinking adulterated Egyptian brandies and gins. A notorious wine scandal in Italy in 1986 involving methanol claimed 22 lives. Methanol becomes dangerous at levels of more than 1g per litre. It is metabolised in the body to formaldehyde and formic acid, both of which are toxic.

Charlotte Common: fell into coma in Cairo

In the past the United States Embassy in Cairo has warned tourists not to touch any Egyptian alcohol. The Foreign Office said Mrs Common's death appeared to be an isolated incident.

Although Egypt's may be the world's longest-established wine industry, it is also one of the worst. Hugo Dunn-Meynell, of the International Wine and Food Society, said: "From what I have heard, it is not surprising Egyptian wine has poisoned someone."

Mrs Common's family, who were at her bedside when she died, said they were investigating the circumstances of her death.

Farmer told to return antiques to listed house

By Robin Young

A FARMER claimed yesterday that a High Court decision ordering him to return a magnificent carillon clock and three huge chandeliers to a country mansion would make it unsafe for anyone to buy furniture from a listed building.

Hew Kennedy, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, bought the French baroque clock and three ormolu chandeliers from a previous owner of Leighton Hall, Welshpool, a Grade II* listed Victorian neo-Gothic mansion built in 1851 for John Naylor of Liverpool, a banker.

The hall, commanding a view of Powis Castle, cost Naylor £2 million at the time. It boasts castellations, towers, gargoyles and mullioned windows. The building has been largely unused since the early 1980s, when it was briefly used as a school.

After Mr Kennedy bought and removed the clock and chandeliers in 1992, Montgomeryshire District Council issued enforcement notices requiring their return. The notices were upheld by John Redwood, then Welsh Secretary, in 1994 on the advice of a planning inspector that the pieces were fixtures and not fittings.

In a judgment given in the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Ognall rejected a further appeal by Mr Kennedy and confirmed that he must return the ornate pieces within six months. Mr Kennedy was also ordered to pay costs.

"This is the first time a chandelier has been declared part of a listed building," Mr Kennedy said yesterday. "These are not even part of the original decor or the architect's design. They were installed by the owner after the house was built." He said the clock, which weighs several tonnes, was a free-standing item made for exhibition.

The court was told that the clock was adapted to Naylor's specifications in 1855 and decorated to harmonise with its surroundings in the hall's entrance tower.

The man who owned the hall when Mr Kennedy bought the pieces had it repossessed by the National Westminster Bank. The present owners, two Manchester metal brokers, are converting it into two large flats and an office.

Traffic offender banged to rites

From Quentin Letts in New York

A MOTORIST who angrily bumped another driver's car at a toll booth has been sentenced to attend church.

An American court ordered Raymond Bachelor, 30, to worship regularly for three months after he was convicted of nudging the car of a woman who took a long time to find her handbag.

The court is not yet convinced of Bachelor's conversion. The case was held last month and he was told to return with documentary proof that he had honoured his sentence. This week Bachelor presented a premature letter of "proof" to the court. It has been rejected. Tom Cuomo, the court administrator, said yesterday: "It had no letterhead and had very few details."

The letter was signed by a Rev John Cantrell but no clergyman of that name appears to exist in the Newark area. "We're not too sure the letter is from a minister," Mr Cuomo said. "Anyone could have written it."

At the original hearing at Saddle Brook Municipal Court, New Jersey, Judge Nicholas Nasarenko asked Bachelor: "Do you go to church?" Bachelor, of Newark, who faced jail or community service after being charged with criminal mischief, replied that he attended as frequently as he could.

Judge Nasarenko: "Well, your minister is going to find out who you are. You're going to be a regular visitor." The judge said that he wanted Bachelor to grasp the error of his ways and he hoped that by listening to a clergyman he might learn to control his temper.

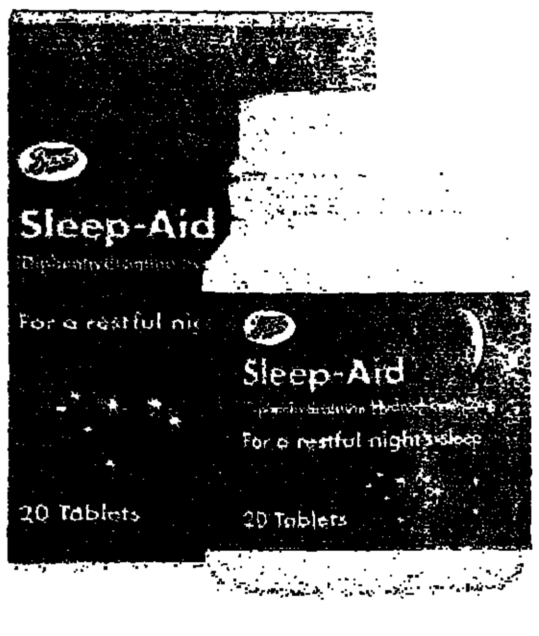
The American Civil Liberties Union criticised the sentence. Ed Martone, head of the union's local office, said that it was ludicrous and possibly unconstitutional to use religion as a sentence. "I'm sure most religious leaders don't think church is an alternative for jail," he said.

Mr Cuomo said that Bachelor had appeared "very happy" when he heard the sentence. He was also fined $455 (£303).

It is not the first time that Mr Nasarenko, who is a Russian Orthodox, has handed down an imaginative sentence. In November 1994 he ordered a man to cut off his ponytail as a condition to dropping an assault charge.

Last week a New York judge ruled that drugs suspects had a right to run away from police because officers were widely seen as "corrupt, abusive and violent".

New at Boots



Boots Sleep-Aid
20 Tablets £2.15

Used to aid the relief of temporary sleeplessness for a restful night.
Available from the chemist counter.
Ask your Boots pharmacist.

Always read the label. Contains Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride.
Available from most Boots stores. Subject to availability.

Boots
Someone Cares

هكنا من الاعطاء

Apple Computer, Inc.

Dear Apple Customers:

Apple began with the simple idea: That the power of computing should be available and accessible to everyone. With that idea, we helped launch the personal computer. And as we begin our 20th year, this idea of individual empowerment continues to be the driving force behind Apple Computer.

As many of the 22 million users of Macintosh® systems know, the press has been reporting that these are challenging times for Apple. We would, therefore, like to communicate directly with you and to reassure you that the top priority of Apple's Board and management team is to take action to prepare Apple for its next chapter of growth and profitability.

The major restructuring we are currently implementing is focused on how best to allocate our resources to ensure that we continue to meet our customers' needs with solutions they require at price points they can afford. Moreover, the actions we are taking to put our fiscal house in order will also have vast implications on how we do business.

We've taken measures to build on our market leadership in the home, education and key commercial segments. And we are committed to building and preserving our most valued assets: the Apple® brand, customer loyalty and Apple employees. We are also moving forward aggressively with new technologies and products that will play to Apple's strengths in multimedia and the Internet. And with the strong support of our third-party developers, we now have over 1,400 Macintosh native PowerPC™ applications, including over 800 that are "Mac™-first" or "Mac-only."

Looking forward, Apple is positioning itself to take advantage of information industry trends with the delivery of Copland, the code name of our next-generation operating system, and products based on the PowerPC microprocessor, the Newton® platform and Pippin™ technology – the television-based, affordable multimedia platform and Internet browser.

Apple's continued growth depends on constant and direct communication with you. So, I encourage you to watch spaces like this for important messages from Apple about our vision and future strategies.

Rest assured: Apple's mission remains as vibrant today as it was in 1976. It is one that cannot be realized in a year, a decade or even a lifetime. I believe it is one of the most enduring missions of any business in the world.

Sincerely,

Michael Spindler
President and CEO
On behalf of Apple employees worldwide

e-mail address: AppleForever@apple.com

©1996 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the apple logo, Macintosh and Newton are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Mac and Pippin are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. PowerPC is a trademark of International Business Machines Corporation, used under license therefrom.

هيكل: أمين الأموال

Royal troubleshooter promoted

Top job for man who sold Queen double glazing

By Alan Hamilton

MEN in grey suits are taking over the world. In Queen Anne's time, the Keeper of the Privy Purse was her favourite Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. From next August, the romantically titled post as head of the present Queen's money will go to a former senior partner in the accountancy firm KPMG.

Michael Peat, 46, has already made a brisk and bruising financier's impression on the Queen's counting house during his four years as her director of finance, imposing savings and a degree of business efficiency hitherto unknown in the red-carpeted corridors of monarchy. The Queen yesterday announced his promotion to Keeper of the Privy Purse, Treasurer to the Queen, and Receiver General of the Duchy of Lancaster, the most senior financial post in the Royal Household.

When he takes over in August, Mr Peat will assume overall responsibility for the financial running of the Queen's household, her private estates, stables and studs. He succeeds Sir Shane Blewitt, 63, who is retiring and who came to the Royal Household after a career in the Irish Guards and the City. Day-to-day financial affairs will be handled by two deputies.

Mr Peat first worked for the Queen on secondment from the giant City accountancy firm founded by his father. His decision to join her full-time in 1990 coincided with the Royal Household taking over the annual £20 million budget for the occupied royal palaces from the Department of National Heritage.

He demonstrated how far the Royal Family has moved from the days of Queen Anne in February 1993 when he gave unprecedented television interviews explaining the Queen's decision to pay income tax. "The Queen is a very pragmatic person. I have to say that her expenditure is not extravagant," he said. Since then Mr Peat has more than earned his £116,000 salary, plus performance bonus and an apartment in Kensington Palace, by making substantial savings. By installing double glazing, for example, he has saved more than £3 million over the past four years on the heating bill for Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. His target is to reduce the annual maintenance costs of the palaces to £15 million by the year 2000.

Figures released on the orders of the Commons Public Accounts Committee last year show that Mr Peat managed to cut the Queen's electricity bill by 9 per cent on the previous year, her gas bill by 17 per cent and water charges by 53 per cent. The public opening of Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle produced £4 million towards the castle's restoration after the 1992 fire.

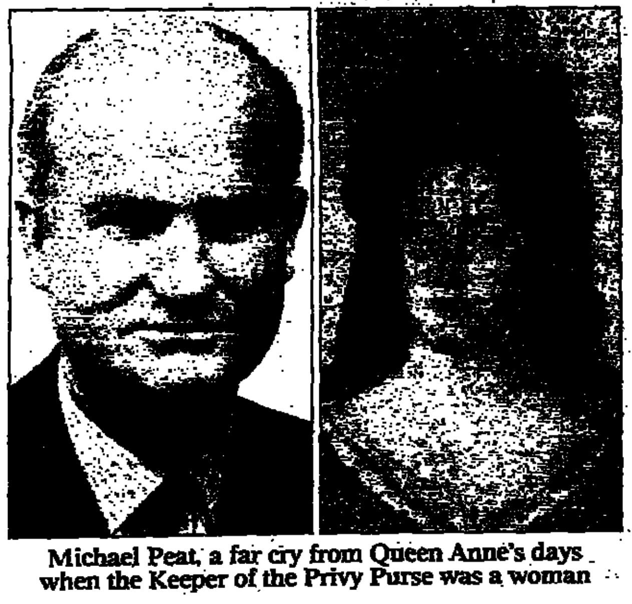
Mr Peat has also been busy with the Civil List, which provides an annual grant of £7.9 million to the Queen for her public duties and the running of her office. Since Mr Peat took over, the list has built up a surplus of £16.9 million, from which the taxpayer will benefit when the list is renegotiated for a further ten years in 2001.

The job, however, has brought its own problems for the low-profile financier. Labour MPs criticised the £400,000 which was spent on refurbishing the apartment before Mr Peat moved in. Buckingham Palace, however, pointed out that the Old Etonian contributed £450 a week towards the cost of the flat. Similar properties in the area, however, would fetch a weekly rent of £2,000.

In royal family finances, the big winner is still the Treasury. Total costs of monarchy, from the Queen's flowers to the Royal Yacht, are estimated at £50 million a year. Last year the Crown Estates, traditionally handed over to the Government at the beginning of each reign, delivered to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a profit of £84.8 million.

Some rising costs, however, have evaded even the cold unblinking eye of Mr Peat. Last year the cost of the Queen's congratulatory telegrams to centenarians rose from £40,000 to £101,000. Not even accountants can prevent people from living longer.

Police are investigating an accident involving the Duke of Edinburgh after a motorist reported whiplash injuries. The Duke was driving a Range Rover, which hit a Mercedes that had stopped at a zebra crossing. The accident happened in Brandon, Suffolk, on Wednesday — the day after *The Sun* published part of a telephone call involving the Duke.



Michael Peat, a far cry from Queen Anne's days when the Keeper of the Privy Purse was a woman

Prince's TV firm to produce life of Queen Mother

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

PRINCE Edward's television production company, Ardent, is to make a £6 million dramatised biography of his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, which will be shown on ITV next year.

The Prince has consulted his grandmother and received her permission for the eight-part series, which covers the period from her marriage to Prince Albert, Duke of York, in 1923 to the Coronation in 1953.

The actresses Jennifer Ehle, who starred in the BBC Television adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, and Helena Bonham Carter are being considered for the central role of the Queen Mother, which has provisionally been entitled *Century*.

A spokeswoman for Ardent said that although the Prince would have no direct editorial involvement in the production, "it would be daft to say he has not had influence in the early stages.

"The Royal Family will not be shown scripts for the serial. It will be a very dramatic account of the Queen Mother's early life. We won't just trawl through the history. The Queen Mother is a well-loved figure and it will be a fascinating story," she said.

Vernon Lawrence, managing director of MAI Productions, which has commissioned the programme for ITV, said: "The series will cover one of the most fascinating periods in our recent history, seen through the life of the Queen Mother.

"Her place and influence on the great events of this century have never been fully appreciated."

The series will be scripted by Julian Bond, 65, whose work includes the screenplays for the films *The Whistle Blower* and *The Shooting Party*.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "The Queen Mother and the Queen have been informed and have agreed to the project."

The programme will be the Prince's second important project about his own family. Ardent Productions has already made a two-part documentary about Edward VIII, called *Edward on Edward*. The programme will be shown later this spring to coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of his abdication.

Ardent's first drama production, *Annie's Bar*, a political soap set in the tearoom in the House of Commons that deals with politicians' passions and peccadilloes, had its first showing on Channel 4 last night.

Matthew Bond, page 39

MICHAEL POWELL

Sid Shaw in his shop. He is expanding into bedspreads, curtains and shirts

Presley trader keeps on rocking

THE first round of the fight between a small businessman and the Elvis Presley empire over who has the right to produce the singer's souvenirs ended yesterday with a victory for the entrepreneur.

The Trade Marks Registry, part of the Patent Office, based in London, provisionally allowed Sid Shaw to continue producing his *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* knickers, *Jailhouse Rock* ties and Presley soaps branded with a portrait of the "King".

Jack Soden, chief executive of Elvis Presley Enterprises, had objected to Mr Shaw using the name Elvis in his "Elvisly Yours" merchandise. Mr Soden secured an injunction in 1987 preventing Mr Shaw from selling his souvenirs at Graceland, Presley's Memphis home.

Mr Shaw, who has a shop in Shoreditch, east London, argues that Elvis Presley Enterprises does not have sole rights to represent the singer. He has been fighting for the right to produce Presley memorabilia for 13 years. He said yesterday he would continue with his plan to expand into Presley curtains, bedspreads and shirts.

TOMORROW

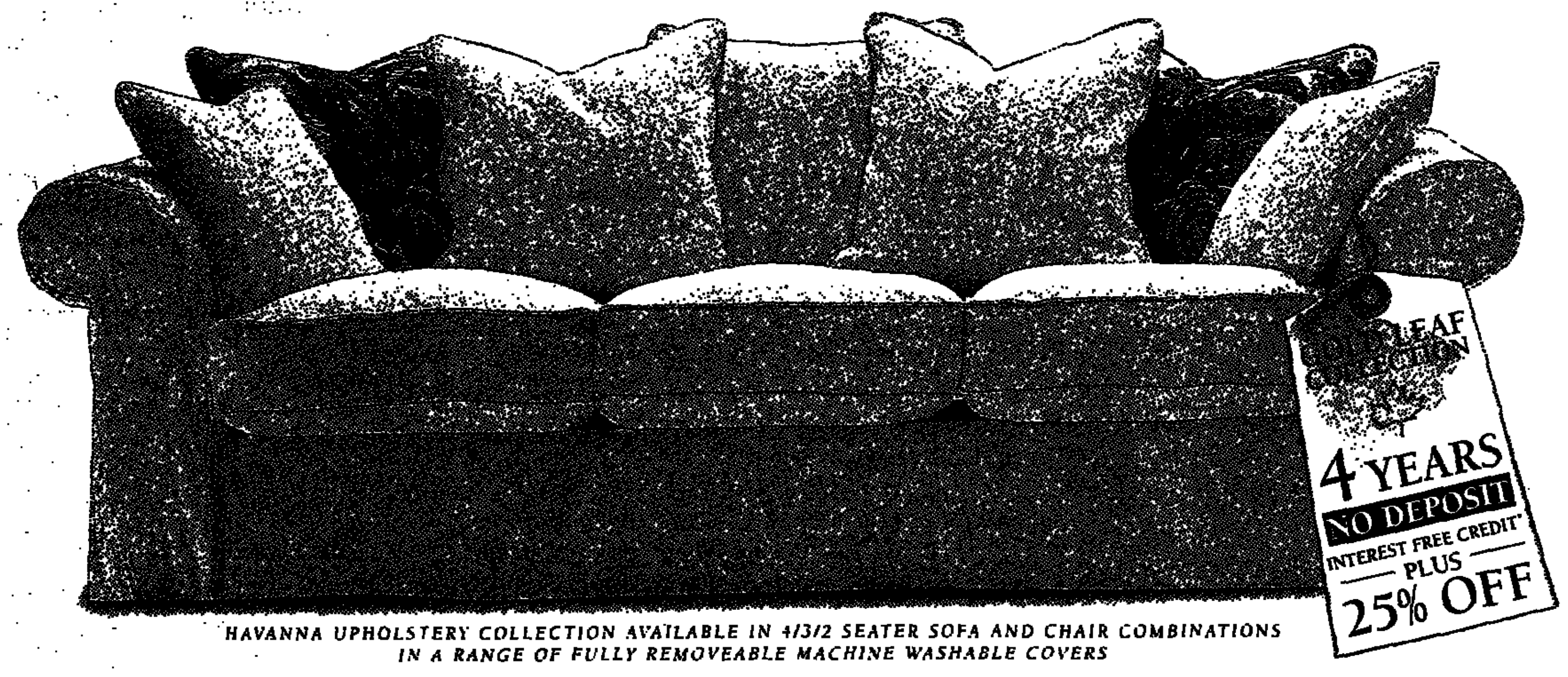
Maxwell: Peter Jay's verdict

"His only success is the avoidance of disaster . . ."

So wrote Peter Jay in a memo to his successor after *three and a half* years as Robert Maxwell's "Chief of Staff". Read on tomorrow for Jay's recollections of the "pre-moral giant pachyderm" and his verdict on two new books on Maxwell's life and death.

ON THE BOOKS PAGE, ON SATURDAY

FREE FOR A YEAR
NO DEPOSIT & NOTHING TO PAY FOR THE FIRST YEAR
4 YEARS - NO DEPOSIT
INTEREST FREE CREDIT AND
25% OFF EVERYTHING
IN THE MAPLES GOLD LEAF SALE COLLECTION



HAVANNA UPHOLSTERY COLLECTION AVAILABLE IN 4/3/2 SEATER SOFA AND CHAIR COMBINATIONS IN A RANGE OF FULLY REMOVEABLE MACHINE WASHABLE COVERS

THIS WEEKEND ONLY - ENDS 5.30PM MONDAY (OPEN SUNDAY)

UPHOLSTERY
Maples have a huge range of upholstery collections, from £999 to £3,500. Available in an exciting choice of all the latest designs, colours and fabrics.

CARPETS
Free fitting and free underlay is available on Maples' extensive collection of carpets from £7.99m² to £56.99m². Guaranteed lowest prices. Let us estimate and prove it.

DINING FURNITURE
Modern and traditional dining and cabinet furniture, ranging in price from £799 to £3,000. The highest quality craftsmanship that would grace any room.

BEDS
Maples International range of beds plus many quality brands from £299 to £1,999. Sizes and options to suit your needs all at outstanding value with many available for immediate delivery.

CURTAINS
We offer a full made-to-measure service with free advice and estimating. You will find an outstanding choice of styles, textures, colours and a variety of fabric types.

WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE WHEN YOU CAN AFFORD TO GO TO MAPLES

MAPLES
THE FINE ART OF FURNISHING
CALL YOUR LOCAL STORE ON 0345 585851 – NEW SUPERSTORE NOW OPEN IN PRESTON
BIRMINGHAM · BOURNEMOUTH · BRIGHTON · BRISTOL · BROMLEY · CARDIFF · CHELMSFORD · CHESTER · EXETER · JERSEY · KINGSTON · LANCASTER (Waring & Gillow)
LEEDS · LEICESTER · MANCHESTER · OXFORD · PRESTON · SOUTHAMPTON · SOUTHPORT · TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD · WATFORD · WORTHING
[illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

Devalued investments provoke funding crisis

Worshippers to be asked for 5 per cent of earnings

By Russell Jenkins

THE Anglican Church's 1.5 million regular attenders will be expected to dig deeper in their pockets to fund the clergy's pensions under proposals to go before the General Synod next week.

Senior churchmen spoke yesterday of encouraging congregations to give 5 per cent of their earnings when the collection plate is passed around in Sunday services. On average parishioners will be asked to pay an extra £1.50 a week to fund the £30 million a year needed to meet pension costs from 1998.

Each diocese will be expected to raise its share from parishioners. They promise that the impact will be cushioned as the new pension arrangements will be phased in for up to six years.

The problem of clergy pensions has been looming since the 95 Church Commissioners, who manage assets of £2.4 billion, lost £800 million in investments devalued after the 1980s property boom.

When the commissioners assumed responsibility for funding pensions in 1954, they absorbed 7 per cent of income. That figure had risen to half the income by last year and is likely to swallow the entire income by 2010.

The synod will be asked to set up a pension fund, financed by contributions from dioceses and parishes and administered by a board of trustees. The Church Commissioners, who contributed £73.9 million towards pensions in 1994, will continue to guarantee payments to existing pensioners and commitments to clergy until a cut-off point — probably April 1998.

Vicars now face the task of selling the new policy to dwindling congregations who are already concerned at the way a significant part of the Church's fortune was squandered in the late 1980s. Philip Mawer, the synod's general-secretary, said: "They [parishioners] will be asked to pay more but it is not absolutely clear how much more. The debate is between the aspirations of the clergy and affordability." There are 11,000 clergy pensioners and their widows, outnumbering the 10,500 working clergy. The standard pension, of two thirds of the previous year's national minimum stipend, stands at £8,400.

When a clergyman retires, he can expect to receive the standard pension plus a lump sum of £25,200. Archbishops can expect twice the basic rate, diocesan bishops 1½ times the basic rate and suffragan bishops, deans, provosts and archdeacons 1¼ times the basic rate.

The pensions are linked to stipends, which have been rising faster than average earnings during the past decade. The Pensions Board, under pressure to make cuts, is scheduled to present its proposals next summer. One option is to link pensions to inflation.

The synod will also discuss the implications of the Turnbull Report, which sets out the biggest organisational upheaval in the Church of England for centuries. The recommendations, which effectively put the Archbishop of Canterbury at the head of a business-style management structure, have been widely criticised for concentrating power within the Church at the top.

A White Paper drawn up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in consultation with the synod's standing committee has made modifications to appease the hard-line critics.

It recommends that the National Council, the proposed engine house of the Church, should be called Archbishop's Council. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York would become joint Presidents of the Council and fewer bishops would act as "executive chairmen" on the council.

The paper also emphasises the continuing importance of the General Synod.

Parishioners have been told that £20,000 they donated to repair their church tower is missing. The discrepancy came to light when the parish church council accounts for St Weonards, the name of the church and the village in Hereford and Worcester, were examined after Ben Durham, the treasurer, died suddenly in December. Police are investigating whether a crime has been committed.

Churches set up inquiry into immigration Bill

By Arthur Leathley

MICHAEL HOWARD faces a fresh confrontation with the judiciary as a high-level inquiry is opened to examine his asylum and immigration proposals.

Senior religious leaders have worked with lawyers, charities and immigration welfare groups to set up a wide-ranging investigation of government plans to curb the rights of asylum seekers.

The Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland is the main mover behind the independent public inquiry. It is likely to bring the Home Secretary into direct conflict with one of the country's most senior former judges, who is chairing the inquiry. Sir Iain Glidewell, who retired last year as a lord justice of appeal, is to chair a panel taking evidence from a wide range of organisations on the principles and practical implications of the Asylum and Immigration Bill.

Mr Howard and senior Home Office officials will have the opportunity to give evidence to the panel during the coming month. The move to expose the Bill to detailed examination will re-ignite the controversy surrounding the Government's refusal to set up a special standing committee to analyse the legislation.

Ministers have said the Bill is aimed at reducing the number of people making bogus applications for asylum in Britain.

The inquiry is expected to report before Easter, in advance of the Bill completing its passage through the Lords. New rules limiting the rights of asylum seekers to claim state benefits will be introduced next week.

Among other panel members are Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Dr David Say, assistant bishop of Canterbury, and Ranjit Sondhi, former deputy chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality.

Clergy seek showdown with dean

The Dean of Lincoln: asked by bishop to go

By Russell Jenkins

CLERGY in the diocese have called a meeting with Lincoln Cathedral clerics next week to try to resolve the long-running public dispute between senior staff.

About 50 canons in the diocese intend to confront the dean, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, about his future in the cathedral.

Canon Raymond Rodger, personal assistant to the bishop, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, said: "There is a groundswell of festering dissatisfaction in the diocese about what is happening. This meeting was called by the canons because they want to express their feelings about matters at the cathedral and they want an opportunity to speak their minds to the dean and chapter."

The row goes back to a loss-making exhibition of the cathedral's Magna Carta in Australia in the late 1980s. It was exacerbated last summer when Dr Jackson, 60, was acquitted in a church consistory court of sexual misconduct with a former cathedral verger, Verity Freestone, 31.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, became so alarmed at the dispute late last year that he sent two representatives to hear the views of the factions. Cathedral staff made clear then that they no longer had confidence in the dean's leadership. Afterwards the bishop called for his resignation, saying relationships with staff were "past reconciliation".

There is likely to be further damage done to the Church's reputation when Ms Freestone takes her claim against the dean and chapter for unfair dismissal and sexual harassment to an industrial tribunal.

One canon said: "They [the canons] are sick and tired of what is going on and they feel something needs to be done. I also sense there is very little support for the dean."

CHRIS HARRIS

A bluetit tucks into fat-coated scraps at the Islington Ecology Centre in London

Bird lovers learn the fats of life

GARDEN birds struggling to survive the freezing weather could be thrown a lifeline by householders who pour their cooking fat down the sink. Water bosses are appealing to cooks to mix the melted fat from the Sunday roast with seeds, dried fruit and scraps and put it out for the birds. When cooled, it can be hung in the garden, providing vital nourishment in the cold spell. Every year 100 tons of fat are poured into the drainage system in the Thames area, blocking the pipes in 6,500 homes.

'Rioters' called for chicken curries

Prisoners involved in one of Scotland's worst jail riots stopped petrol bombing prison officers and smashing up furniture to ask negotiators for 22 chicken curries, a court was told yesterday.

The High Court in Stirling heard that rioters held a prison officer hostage and had threatened to stab him during a violent siege at Glenochil prison near Alloa.

Paul McGuigan, 31, a prison officer, said one of the two demands was for chicken curries for the 22 men in the wing. The trial of eight men, who deny rioting, continues.

Murder charge

Mark Weston, 21, of Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, will appear before magistrates at Witney today charged with the murder of Vikki Thompson, 30, who lived in the same village. The mother of two died in August, six days after she was found badly beaten in woodland where she had been walking her dog.

Shutting up shop

Jim Heritage, 37, of Coventry, who has been prosecuted 40 times and jailed on ten occasions for shoplifting, was banned from all Tesco supermarkets in England and Wales. He consented to the injunction, which Tesco had sought at the High Court. "Where can I go now?" asked the divorced father of two, who is banned from his local shops.

Taxing task

A committee of senior judges, MPs and other public figures are to investigate ways of curbing tax avoidance, under the auspices of the Institute of Fiscal Studies. Lord Justice Millett and Mr Justice Carnwath, both experts in the field, have been asked to join the committee, which already includes Lords Nolan and Templeman, law lords.

Bomb made safe

A Second World War German bomb found in a lake in South Norwood country park in southeast London was made safe after a controlled explosion by army experts yesterday. Railtrack stopped trains in the area between 8am and 9am. Residents spent the night in a nearby sports centre after the 100lb bomb was found by a park keeper.

Case collapses

The case against three Manchester men accused of killing a football fan in a brawl outside a pub in Walsall, West Midlands, collapsed. Ian Gillespie, the Walsall stipendiary magistrate, decided that Neil and Ian Spence and Steven Rimmer had no case to answer. They had been accused of manslaughter and violent disorder.

Phone alert

Islington council is proposing to issue roadsweepers in the King's Cross area with mobile telephones so they can make emergency calls if they are attacked. But some suggested the phones would attract muggers. One worker said: "If I was getting mugged, a mobile phone would be the first thing I would hand over." The council would not comment.

Red-handed

Surgeries and hospitals in the Thames Valley area were warned to be on the alert yesterday for a burglar who lost a finger during a break-in when he was attacked by a greyhound. Police were unable to take prints after the incident in Conniburrow, Milton Keynes, because the dog ate the finger while his owner was dialling 999.

AT THESE PRICES DISTANT RELATIVES NEEDN'T BE SO DISTANT.

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
USA	£1.28	£3.40	62%
India	£7.39	£11.34	35%
South Africa	£4.81	£7.05	32%
Hong Kong	£4.22	£6.56	36%
Japan	£4.34	£8.77	51%
Australia	£2.34	£5.23	55%
Brazil	£7.16	£9.94	28%
Canada	£1.75	£3.40	49%
Germany/France	£2.22	£2.59	14%
Israel	£6.69	£8.25	19%

(Price comparison based on a 10 minute call)

★ Savings to 100's of countries
★ All major credit cards and Delta accepted
★ "Minute Miles" bonus available
★ No start-up costs, membership or joining fees
★ Business and Residential customers welcome.
★ Operators available, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.

FREEPHONE
0800 376 66 66

FIRST TELECOM

BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD, PHONE US.

Globally Speaking - a service provided by First Telecom plc

NHS 'ignoring the plight of osteoporosis victims'

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

MORE than half the health authorities in the United Kingdom are ignoring government advice on the crippling bone disease osteoporosis, specialists said yesterday.

Lives are being put at risk and thousands of people suffering unnecessarily because of the failure to implement guidelines on treatment and prevention issued a year ago by the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, the National Osteoporosis Society said.

A national survey by the society showed that more than half of health authorities had made no plans to open specialist osteoporosis clinics for the one in three women and one in 12 men affected. More than one in ten authorities admitted they were doing nothing.

The cost of a basic osteoporosis service is estimated at £50,000 in each health district, less than the cost of caring for two weeks' hip fractures.

Linda Edwards, the society's director, said: "Lack of action is condemning thousands of men and women to a life destroyed by fractures, pain and deformity because they are being denied the basic right to early diagnosis and effective treatment. Hundreds of thousands of people could avoid the disease if they received better advice on prevention and earlier treatment. It is grossly unfair that, because you live in one district and not another, your friends may be getting help on the NHS while you receive no help or must travel hundreds of miles to obtain private treatment."

Osteoporosis is caused by loss of protein from bones, which become thin and brittle and fracture easily. Hormonal changes at the menopause make women especially vulnerable. The condition can be treated with drugs to slow or stop bone loss provided it is detected early enough. This can be done by a bone scan to measure the patient's bone density.

The health department guidelines recommended that health districts provide at least 600 bone scans a year. Only one health authority in eight is meeting this minimum.

Gentle wardens anger traders

By Michael Horsnell

TRAFFIC wardens in the old Devon port of Topsham have been accused of being too kind to motorists who ignore the parking restrictions. Shopkeepers claim the narrow streets are clogged because the two part-time wardens are not made of the right stuff when dealing with drivers they know in the closely knit town.

Instead of reaching po-faced for their ticket pads like the best of their breed, they have allegedly sought out offending motorists in nearby shops and given them a chance to move their cars rather than pay the £20 fine.

One shopkeeper said: "The trouble is that people in Topsham are just plain lazy and they hate walking anywhere. There are perfectly good car parks but people will not use them. They prefer to park illegally outside the shops. Our wardens could win a prize as the kindest in the world."

Mary Evans, a Tory councillor on Exeter City Council who lives in Topsham, said: "It is very difficult as one of them lives in the town and knows everyone. They do hand out tickets but they always do it with a smile on their face."

Inspector John Pulman of Exeter police said: "It is difficult for wardens if they are working in a small town rather than a city. Often a word in an ear is better then handing out tickets."

British bat follows wolf into dark night of extinction

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

The mouse-eared bat has not been seen for five years. The wolf was the last British mammal to vanish, in 1745

BRITAIN'S mouse-eared bat, which has not been seen for five years, is believed by wildlife experts to be extinct — the first British mammal to have suffered that fate since the wolf in 1745.

Several others of the 15 native bat species are rare and may be endangered. Conservationists are to carry out the first census of the dwindling bat population with the aid of a £500,000 grant from the Environment Department.

Colin Catto, scientific officer of the Bat Conservation Trust, said: "Bats are an integral part of Britain's ecology. They are not pests and they are not rodents. A lot of people form their impressions from horror movies and associate bats with dark imagery and evil. They need lots of positive PR. We think there are no more than 4,000 greater horseshoe bats left and we also know that Bechstein's bat and the barbastelle bat, both woodland species, are extremely rare." The trust will conduct the survey over five years with the help of 93 volunteer bat groups. The operation will involve a painstaking count of hibernation sites and summer roosting places, often in old buildings and hollow trees. "We will also be carrying out field surveys using detectors which can pick up the ultrasound signals emitted by bats," Mr Catto said. "Bats are nocturnal creatures and use a sophisticated echo-location system, similar to radar, to navigate and to detect insect prey, though no bats are blind, contrary to popular belief."

One of the main problems for bats has been the decline in insects, their sole food source, because of increased use of pesticides by farmers and the loss of insect-rich habitats such as hay meadows and marshland over the past 50 years.

Tidying up woods, with the loss of hollow trees, converting old farm buildings into houses and blocking up caves and old mine shafts have also reduced the number of roosting and hibernation sites.

DNA testing could at last identify Sixties sex killer who quoted from the Scriptures

Police dig up body after 16 years in Bible John hunt

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

POLICE exhumed the body of the man they believe to be Scotland's most notorious serial killer at dawn yesterday in a snow-covered cemetery.

Inside a makeshift tent, six officers wearing boiler suits and surgical masks started digging up the body of John Irvine McInnes, said to be Bible John, a murderer who lured young women from a Glasgow dance hall to their deaths almost 30 years ago.

Two leading pathologists, Professor Anthony Basuttil of Edinburgh University and Dr Marie Cassidy, a consultant attached to Glasgow University, were present as the body was brought to the surface at Stonehouse cemetery, Strathclyde. They later began the task of extracting DNA samples in an effort to establish a match with semen found on the tights of Bible John's last victim, Helen Puttock. They may also take casts of McInnes's teeth. Teeth marks on the woman's body showed the killer had deformed front teeth.

The results of the tests may not be known for some weeks but police are almost certain they have traced the killer. DNA found on the victim has already been matched with DNA from one of McInnes's relatives.

Bible John's photofit and Pat Docker, a victim

McInnes, known to friends and family as Irvine, committed suicide in 1980 aged 41 and is buried with his mother and father, Robert and Elizabeth, who are remembered by villagers as devout Christians who regularly attended the old gospel hall.

Police also had to exhume Mrs McInnes's body as she was buried on top of her son. She died in 1987 aged 91.

The dig took place at first light in accordance with an old Scots law. It was so cold that the sweat started to freeze on the backs of the policemen digging. Portable heaters were brought into the tents and pneumatic drills were used to break up the ground.

Mrs McInnes's body was removed to the local undertakers. She is to be reinterred with a funeral service. Her son's remains were taken to the police mortuary in Glasgow.

The murders took place between February 1968 and October 1969. The three victims, Patricia Docker, 25, Jemima McDonald, 32, and Helen Puttock, 29, were strangled after leaving the Barrowland Ballroom in Glasgow with a man quickly known as Bible John because Mrs Puttock's sister, Jeannie, who had been with her on the night she died and met her killer, heard him quote from the Bible.

McInnes, a former Scots Guardsman, who often went to the ballroom, was arrested by police but Jeannie Puttock failed to pick him out at an identity parade. She had told police that she was certain she would recognise the killer.

The inquiry reopened six months ago after traces of semen were found on Helen Puttock's tights. DNA technology, not available in the Sixties, gave a reliable genetic fingerprint of the man.

IAN WALDIE

Police officers confer at Stonehouse cemetery during the dig yesterday; drills were needed to penetrate the frozen soil

The forensic science laboratory of Strathclyde Police had put out a routine request that all samples from unsolved murder cases be resubmitted for examination with the latest technology. Two detectives then spent months sifting through the evidence and questioning the original detectives in the case. The thousands of witness statements were computerised and searched for matches and a list of a dozen suspects was compiled before police homed in on McInnes. A DNA test on a relative convinced them to apply for a warrant to exhume his body.

The inquiry has shocked McInnes's family. His former wife Ella, a nurse, has remarried and lives in Saudi Arabia. She and McInnes had two children who live in England.

Villagers in Stonehouse said yesterday that they remembered McInnes as a smartly dressed furniture salesman who drank in local pubs.

Police in Lothian plan to use the technique again on the victims of the World's End pub murders in Edinburgh 19 years ago. Two girls aged 17 were abducted and killed after drinking there. Police, though, say there is no prime suspect yet.

Villager jailed for campaign of arson

A MAN who brought terror to a village by setting fire to cottages and haystacks was jailed for 12 years yesterday.

Alan Price, 35, a farm labourer, caused £229,000 damage over four years in Pitt, Hampshire, where he lived. It was luck that no one died in the fires, police said. The arsonist would be on the scene when the emergency services arrived. He once told neighbours whose house he had set alight to call the fire brigade.

Passing sentence at Southampton Crown Court, Judge Chalkley said Price had committed "an act of prolonged wickedness".

At an earlier hearing, Keith Cutler, for the prosecution, had said: "Whoever was responsible was putting the lives of the occupants in extreme danger. The prosecution is not suggesting he was attempting to kill the occupants of the houses. But we are suggesting that he couldn't care less. For some reason, he wanted his fire — so he could watch it or help the fire service. Villagers were in terror of one night something happening."

Price denied 11 charges of arson and eight charges of arson "being reckless as to whether life would be endangered". He was convicted on seven counts in December.

Guy Boney, QC, for Price, said that there was a pattern between him drinking and starting the fires.

Distressing signs parents must face

MEDICAL BRIEFING

DOCTORS and nurses need to work for only a week or two in a maternity unit to realise the saloon bar opinion that all babies look alike is nonsense. There are huge variations and, although all children may appear equally beautiful to their parents, the medical staff know differently.

One of the stranger facial malformations that in a well-developed case could not be missed by the most confirmed male chauvinist is the Treacher Collins syndrome, which affects one in 50,000 babies born in Britain.

Without surgery the facial deformities, and the deafness that is associated with the syndrome, make it a most distressing condition. The malformation can affect the cheekbones, the chin and lower jaw, which is often so rudimentary that the child has a grossly receding chin.

The external ears may be entirely absent, squashed or very small and the middle ear also may be missing, leading to a conductive deafness.

The lack of cheekbones allows the eye to slope downwards and the eyelids to droop. The syndrome may be complicated by cleft palate. In half the cases of the Treacher Collins syndrome it is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion; which means that if one parent is affected the odds are that 50 per cent of their children will also have some, or all, of the features of it. In the other cases the parents appear absolutely normal.

The degree to which the child is malformed varies; in some cases the deformity is so trivial that it would be apparent only to a doctor, and would certainly be overlooked by friends and neighbours.

The frequent presence of deafness in the condition aroused the interest of the Hearing Research Trust. With the Wellcome Trust it has supported a team led by Professor Mike Dixon of Manchester University which, working in collaboration with American scientists, has now isolated and cloned the gene responsible.

The research will enable doctors to offer more accurate prenatal and postnatal diagnosis to most of the families afflicted with the disease. Babies born with the syndrome are already benefiting from advances in plastic surgery.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Calmer seas yield cheaper catches

WEEKEND SHOPPING

FISH landings have recovered after the storms and traditional white fish has dropped in price. Cod fillets are about £2.95 a lb and haddock £2.80. Among flat fish, lemon sole is an excellent buy, about £2.90 a lb for small to medium whole fish. Oil-rich fish are in fine condition, with large Scottish herrings about 95p a lb and mackerel £1.20.

Cauliflower and carrots are more expensive but parsnips for baking and broccoli for steaming have fallen in price. Most meat departments have discounts on beef: sales have fallen by 17 per cent since the revived BSE scare. It is high season for Cape plums, priced from 65p to £1.20 a lb.

Promotions include:

Asda: fresh pork shoulder £2.39 a kg, coleslaw 62p for 333g, light cottage cheese with pineapple £1.29 for 400g.

Budgens: Valentine's Day cake £2.99, white seedless grapes 99p a lb, six fresh red roses £3.99.

Co-op: fresh minced lamb £1.69 for 400g, skinless boneless chicken thighs £2.99 for 550g, steak, kidney and onion pies 99p for four.

Harrods: game torte £10.95 each, English roast beef £3.25 for 100g, red and black tilapia £7.25 a kg, rainbow trout £4 a kg.

Iceland: grade A chicken 1.4 to 1.5kg £1.39, four chicken Kievs £2.75, boned kippers £1.49 for 680g, salmon campanelle 99p for 350g.

Marks & Spencer: lightly or oak-smoked salmon £2.49 for 400g, family Cumberland pie £2.75 for 908g, fruit salad £1.99 for 600g.

Safeway: breaded skinned cod fillet £1.99 for 320g, creamy pepper chicken Kiev £1.69 for 567g, honey-roast ham 69p a ¼ lb, crumpets 39p for 12.

Sainsbury's: boneless chicken breasts £3.99 for 567g, fresh boneless shoulder lamb £4.28 a kg, parsnips 59p a lb.

Somerfield: fresh British rump or Scottish popeseye steak £6.56 a kg, cantaloupe melons £1.39 each, white seedless grapes 79p a lb.

Tesco: large or extra large whole chicken £1.89 a kg, half shoulder of lamb £2.69 a kg, small cod fillets £1.65 a lb, broccoli 69p a lb.

Waitrose: fresh chicken goujons £2.49 for 340g, large fresh dressed Cromer crab £2.49, 450g mushrooms 99p.

ROBIN YOUNG

Currys BIGGEST EVER SALE NOW EXTENDED

EXTRA SAVINGS ON HOOVER THIS WEEK*
PLUS BUY NOW PAY UP TO 1997*
*On a choice of Hoover products.

HOOVER 1100 Spin Soft Wave Autowasher
■ 10lb washload.
■ 12 programmes.
■ Ecological wash system.
■ Half load option.
Model AC326WH.
Was ~~£469.99~~.
Was £369.99.
BUY NOW PAY AUGUST '96
SALE PRICE £349.99*
SAVE £120

SAVE UP TO £150 ON WASHER DRYERS
HOOVER 1100 Spin Soft Wave Washer Dryer
■ 10lb washload.
■ 13 programmes.
■ Eco-wash system.
■ Crease guard facility.
Model A8754/A8756AL.
Was £549.99.
BUY NOW PAY FEBRUARY '97
SALE PRICE £399.99
SAVE £150

HOOVER 1300 Spin New Wave Washer Dryer
■ 10lb washload
■ Electronic load sensor.
Model A8612. Price excluding trade-in £639.99.
BUY NOW PAY DECEMBER '96
TRADE-IN PRICE £519.99
£120 TRADE-IN

SAVE UP TO £70 ON TUMBLE DRYERS
HOOVER 10lb Soft Wave Tumble Dryer
■ Final cool tumble.
■ 120 minute timer.
■ Rear and side venting.
Model D6986W.
Was £199.99.
SALE PRICE £149.99
SAVE £50

HOOVER 10lb New Wave Tumble Dryer
■ Economy option.
■ Reverse tumble action.
■ 3 heat settings.
■ Final cool tumble.
Model DF022.
Was £299.99. SALE PRICE £229.99
SAVE £70

SAVE UP TO £130 ON AUTOWASHERS
HOOVER 1000 Spin Soft Wave Autowasher
■ 10lb washload.
■ 13 programmes.
■ Crease guard action.
Model AC272.
Was ~~£399.99~~.
Was £349.99.
BUY NOW PAY DECEMBER '96
SALE PRICE £339.99
SAVE £60

HOOVER 1200 Spin Soft Wave Autowasher
■ 10lb washload.
■ Economy button.
Model AC330.
Was ~~£499.99~~.
Was £389.99.
BUY NOW PAY AUGUST '96
SALE PRICE £369.99*
SAVE £130

HOOVER 1100 Spin New Wave Autowasher
■ Crease guard.
■ Economy button.
■ Super rinse.
Model AC170.
Was £539.99.
BUY NOW PAY DECEMBER '96
SALE PRICE £419.99
SAVE £120

HOOVER 800 SPIN SOFT WAVE AUTOWASHER
■ 10lb washload. ■ 13 programmes.
Model AC268. Was ~~£379.99~~. Was £299.99.
BUY NOW PAY AUGUST '96
SAVE £90
SALE PRICE £289.99

HOOVER 1300 SPIN NEW WAVE AUTOWASHER
■ Crease guard. ■ Super rinse button.
Model AC180AL. Was £589.99.
BUY NOW PAY AUGUST '96
SAVE £120
SALE PRICE £469.99

SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £130 ON DISHWASHERS
HOOVER Full Size Soft Wave Dishwasher
■ Takes 12 place settings.
■ 3 programmes.
■ Adjustable upper basket.
Model D7436.
Was £399.99.
In-store Price £279.99.
VOUCHER PRICE £269.99*
SAVE A TOTAL OF £130

HOOVER Full Size Crystaljet Dishwasher
■ 7 programmes.
■ Heat boost drying.
■ Adjustable upper basket.
■ Glass wash.
Model D7420. Was £489.99.
BUY NOW PAY AUGUST '96
SALE PRICE £399.99
SAVE £90

HOOVER D7436 VOUCHER PRICE £269.99
The voucher price shown is guaranteed to be the price you pay.
Currys DISCOUNT VOUCHER

PREMIER SERVICE
OVER 500 DOMESTIC APPLIANCES AVAILABLE WITH 2-DAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED.

EXCLUSIVES
*For extra value, look in-store for the many superb models and offers exclusive to Currys.

TAKE IT HOME NOW
Most items are in stock ready to take away at once. We'll be happy to carry your purchase to your car.

SAME DAY IN-HOME SERVICING
for most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.

IN-STORE REPAIR SHOPS
Same day repair whenever possible, 7 days a week. All repairs guaranteed 3 months.

2 DAY DELIVERY MONDAY-FRIDAY
*You can choose AM or PM for a small extra charge. Ask for details of our professional installation service. (*Subject to availability)

EASY WAYS TO PAY
Currys Premier Advantage Account offers instant Credit at APR 27.9% (variable) by direct debit. 5% deposit, subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over (21 in N. Ireland).

UP TO 5 YEARS COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE
Covers theft, accidental damage, new for old replacement, even personal insurance. (Ask in-store for full details.)

EXAMPLE OF BUY NOW PAY LATER ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED
We'll refund the difference on the spot, if you find the same item and offer cheaper locally. Come back to us within 7 days of purchase with details. The product must be new, complete and available immediately. Excludes mail order prices/offers.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER
ALL THIS ONLY AT Currys

All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0181-200 0200 for details of your nearest store.
Written quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details

NOW YOU CAN ORDER BY PHONE
FREEPHONE 0500 304 304 OR FAX 01442 888145
LINES ARE OPEN 9am-7pm Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm Saturday
DELIVERY CHARGES FROM £3.25 PER ORDER
We aim to deliver within 7 working days. Please ask for full delivery and installation service details at time of purchase.
MOPS

مكنا من الاخطاء

The average person doesn't need a car with twin airbags and power steering.

The average person doesn't need a car with a high level brake light and a coded key pad immobiliser.

The average person doesn't need a car with electric front windows and three rear three-point safety belts.

The average person doesn't need a car with a driver's door mirror with built in blind spot eliminator.

The average person doesn't need a car with a six speaker remote control stereo radio cassette.

The average person doesn't need a car with a steering column with height and reach adjustment.

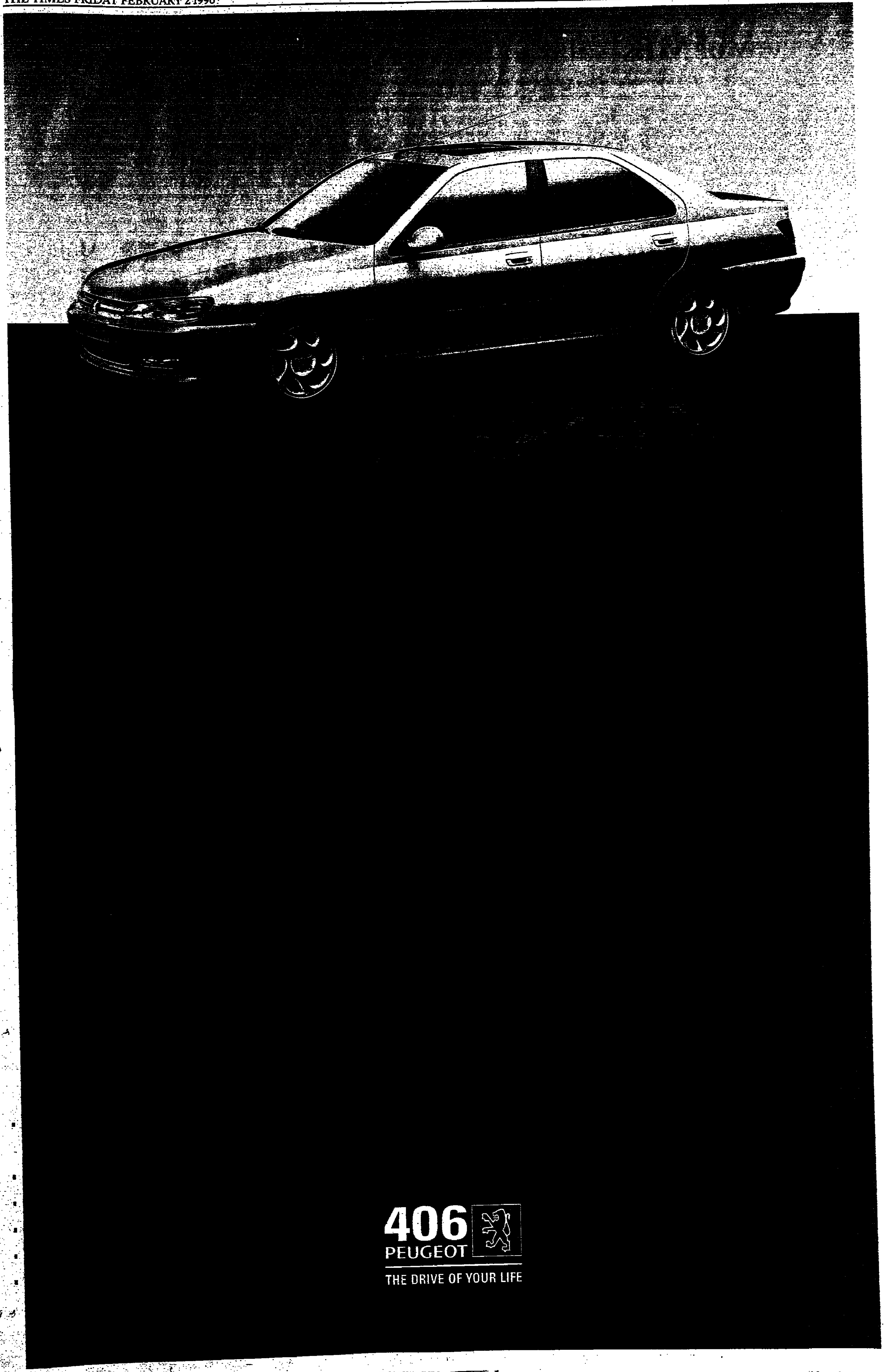
The average person has 2.4 children.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN AVERAGE PERSON.

THE NEW PEUGEOT 406 FROM £12,595.* FOR YOUR FREE INFORMATION PACK CALL 0345 000 406.

*406 1.8 L. PRICE EXCLUDES ON THE ROAD COSTS OF £585 FOR DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. MODEL SHOWN 406 2.0 EXECUTIVE WITH OPTIONAL METALLIC PAINT AT EXTRA COST.

هكذا من الأصل



406
PEUGEOT
THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

صكذا من الاحياء

Review of MPs' salaries answers only part of the problem

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The debate about MPs' pay is much broader than review bodies, or even salary levels. It is about what sort of MPs we want. The Government's intention to refer the issue to an independent organisation with very tight terms of reference like the Senior Salaries Review Body can therefore only answer part of the problem. At most, it will create a new, and probably cumbersome, mechanism for fixing MPs' pay and pensions. But it cannot address the real reason why Parliament is held in such low esteem and why there has been such a public outcry this week about even calls for a big pay rise.

There is no agreement about the role of MPs. At one extreme is the High Tory view that being an MP is a public service, on top of people's existing business and other interests. Therefore, MPs should either receive nothing or merely an allowance in no way related to salary levels elsewhere. This only worked in a world, which disappeared half a century ago, when being an MP was only demanding for part of the year and most MPs either had a substantial income from investments or were paid union officials. But this is now hopelessly out of date and would limit membership of the Commons to millionaires and monks. It also ignores MPs' growing burden of work, both in the Commons itself and, particularly, from constituents. But most MPs who have outside interests also spend a full week on their parliamentary activities.

At the other extreme is the Labour Left view that MPs should be full-time members of the Commons with outside interests forbidden. But this risks a further expansion of the caste of full-time professional politicians with little outside experience, thus narrowing the political class even more.

What is needed is a better balance of full-time politicians and those who switch in mid-career and become MPs, spending two or three terms in the Commons. MPs should be allowed outside interests, provided these are separate from membership of the Commons. Salaries should be set at a level sufficient to attract people of talent and established careers in their late 30s and 40s who often have heavy family responsibilities. Almost no one becomes an MP to make money but their pay should be well above the current £34,000 a year, which is below the earnings of many officials of the Commons, let alone most political journalists. It is mischievous to add the allowance for office and secretarial expenses to suggest that MPs can earn up to £100,000 a year. Some MPs probably do abuse the system, though more have to meet some of their office costs from their basic salary. It would be better to separate the two items entirely. There is an even more urgent case for higher salaries for ministers.

But at some stage the Commons is going to have to go beyond merely financial calculations to examine whether we need as many MPs as we now have. Over the past few months, there have been a number of calls, in newspapers and from retiring MPs, notably Douglas Hurd, for a reduction in the size of the Commons. David Butler, the dean of British political scientists, argues in his foreword to the 1996 edition of the Hansard Society's *Parliament and Government Pocket Book* that the number of MPs (currently 651 and due to rise to 659 after the election) should be reduced to, say, 500. Many would argue that the size of the executive should also be cut. This could be part of a package, including also the Nolan proposals and higher pay. There is scant chance of this happening unless there are much more radical constitutional reforms. But this is the only way that sizeable pay increases are likely to be politically acceptable and saleable.

PETER RIDDELL

Harman is facing revolt by local party activists

By Andrew Pierce

THE row over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school provoked calls for her resignation from members of her constituency party last night.

Emergency motions calling on her to "step down from her national leadership roles" were tabled in three out of the nine branches of Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party. The motions were not included on the agenda of last night's branch annual meetings because they were not tabled within the designated nine day period. The MP's local party critics denounced this as an attempt to silence criticism and debate.

Despite the procedural outmanoeuvring of the Shadow Health Secretary's small but vocal band of critics, the party leadership was struggling to contain a growing constituency revolt.

Ms Harman, who was not present at any of last night's meetings, will have to face the fury of the 760-strong local party at its annual meeting at Southwark town hall in two weeks. Yesterday feelings were running high in the south London constituency, which is one of the poorest boroughs in Britain. In some wards unemployment is as high as 35 per cent.

The row over the school has brought to the surface longstanding resentment towards the MP from the left wing of the local party. But her position as MP, having been reselected unopposed by more than two thirds of the association last summer, is not in jeopardy.

Some of her critics have dubbed her "two-minute Harman" in a barbed reference to the amount of time she spends at some constituency functions. Vincent Feiner, a Peckham Labour councillor and school governor, said: "We cannot be dismissed as a minority of malcontents. There is a huge furore within the local party. She should stand down from the front bench. As a governor of a local school I have to decide within two weeks whether to support grant-maintained status. I have written to Harriet Harman to seek her advice. I Have had no reply. She has broken party policy and given a gift to the Tories."

Ian Driver, a councillor, said: "There is a wave of anger in the constituency. She should resign as a member of the Shadow Cabinet."

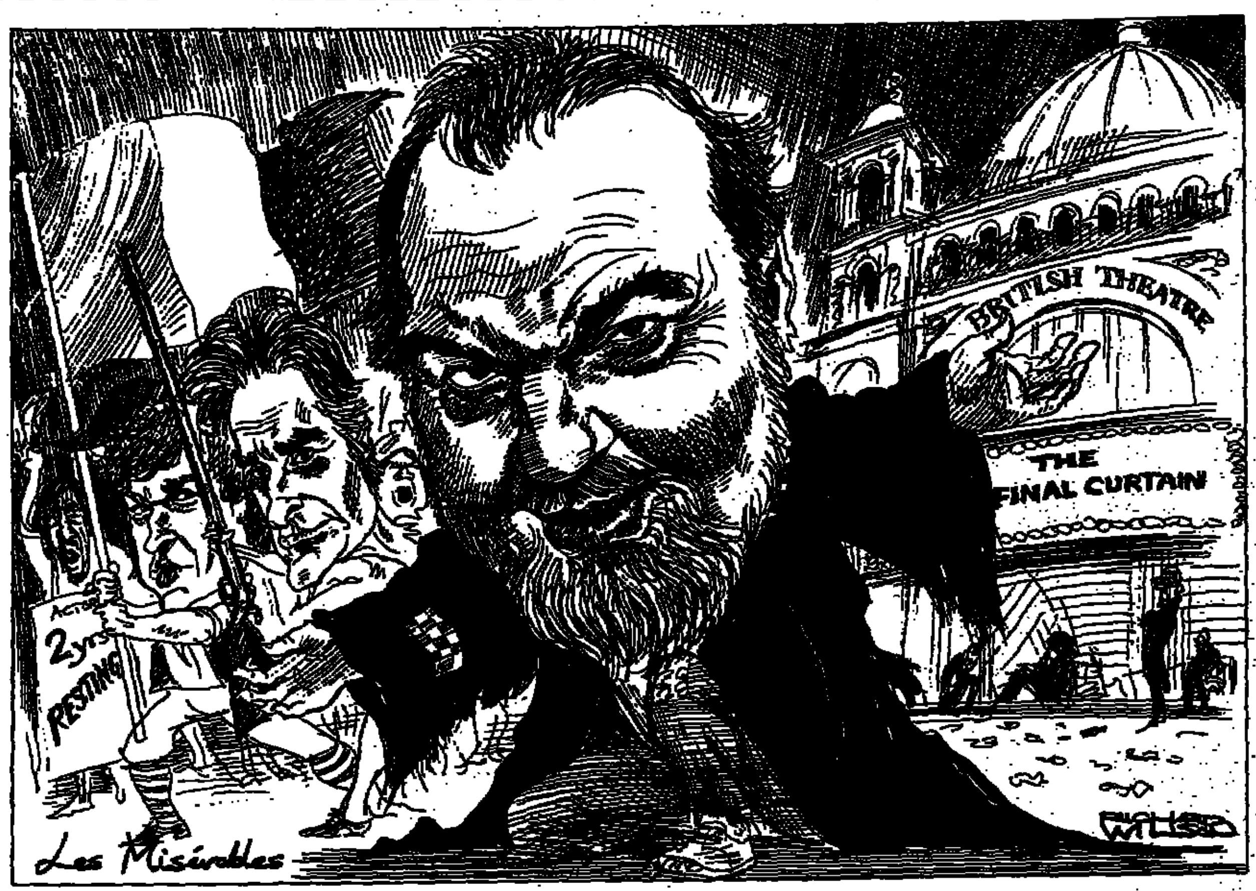
Miss Harman has made enemies in her own backyard for moving out of the constituency and into the neighbouring and far more fashionable Dulwich. Her enemies say that Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for neighbouring Bermondsey, has a higher profile in the area. Mr Hughes, for example, is a frequent attender of the local police liaison committee. Miss Harman is not.

Tom Rowing, an officer of the Brunswick branch of the party, said: "Party members are angry with her. I do not want to do the Tories' dirty work for her so I would support her in any vote. I am in a minority. Most people I have spoken to are furious with her. I only hope that time will heal."

John Friary, a Labour councillor who is secretary of the Brunswick branch, said: "Harriet Harman has underestimated her local party. She has breached party policy and exposed us to a Tory attack. She should have resigned from the Labour front bench."

Clare Cozens, chairman of the local Labour party, accused a minority of malcontents of causing trouble for the Ms Harman. "They are not happy with Harriet Harman as MP but their views are not representative of the broad thrust of the local party."

Ms Cozens denied that criticism was being stifled. "The emergency motions arrived too late to be included on any agendas. I am not against debate. But I cannot tolerate breaches of the rules."



Theatre's best perform tragedy for sceptical Commons audience

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

THE heavyweights of British theatre appeared at the House of Commons yesterday to plead with MPs for better arts funding.

An all-star cast gave evidence to the Heritage Select Committee, whose latest study covers the funding of the performing arts. They included the director Sir Peter Hall, Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Richard Eyre, director of the Royal National Theatre, and the impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh.

Sir Peter attacked the Government, saying that its dwindling subsidy of the performing arts was allowing serious theatre to die. West End theatre would follow the example of Broadway in offering only "plastic musicals" for tourists. He said that there were almost no plays on Broadway, and theatres that once staged them were now dark.

In Britain, he said, every subsidised arts organisation had been "reduced to the bone", ticket-prices were dangerously high and there was no investment in the talent of the future. Cuts over the past decade had increasingly hit the regional theatres where young actors learnt their trade. High prices were deterring young theatre-goers.

"At 14, I was able to practically live in the theatre on no money at all," he said. He lamented the demise of theatre-in-education schemes, saying: "I worry over the schoolchildren who can no longer afford to go to the theatre because there is no money in local authorities."

Sir Cameron said: "Where are the new people going to be to replace us when we come to the end of our sell-by date."

Mr Eyre sounded a note of despair after listening to Joe Ashton (Lab, Bassetlaw), who castigated the RNT and the RSC for not trying harder to secure business sponsorship. The MP wanted to know why theatres did not follow the sports example of displaying sponsors' names on stadiums and clothing. Mr Eyre retorted: "Of course it doesn't happen. Football gets shown on TV. Theatre is seen by a small audience and is untelevised."

Mr Eyre expressed concern that 99 per cent of the country, including politicians, assumed that the lottery had endowed the arts with an "extraordinary fountain of riches" and that any funding problem must have been cured. In fact, the lottery had made it more difficult to argue their case: "We appear to be whingeing."

He called for the Government to change the rules that restrict lottery money to capital projects.

Major is expected to call pay inquiry

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

THE Government sought to defuse the row over MPs' salaries yesterday by taking the first steps towards an independent inquiry.

If the Opposition parties agree in talks over the next few days, the Senior Salaries Review Body, which decides the pay rates for judges, army officers and senior civil servants, will be asked to investigate MPs's pay.

Senior government sources predicted a "substantial" inquiry. But leading figures in both the main parties agreed that if the review results in big increases in the salaries of ministers and MPs it should ideally be dealt with before the general election.

The Cabinet decided yesterday that the increasingly embarrassing clamour over pay should be handled speedily. Demands from more than 300 MPs for an inquiry that some hope will lead to a doubling of their £34,000 salary have been denounced as insensitive by low pay and poverty pressure groups.

In the Commons John Major said that a "new mechanism" for determining the pay of MPs was required. The present link with the Civil Service has been made redundant because of a restructuring of salaries.

Labour had backed the call of the Commons motion for the issue to be handled by the Nolan committee. But members of the committee appear reluctant to take on the task and the Cabinet is thought to prefer the Senior Salaries Review Body because it already has within its terms of reference power to consider MPs' pay.

The decision to move speedily came as it was revealed that more than a million public sector workers would have to settle for rises of about 4 per cent. A formal announcement on the inquiry is expected next week.

Dixons
The Link

NEW
PER-SECOND BILLING
ON CELLNET DIGITAL
FROM Dixons The Link

- From early March Cellnet Digital will be charged by the second, not by the minute.
- That means for a 10 second call you will be charged for 10 seconds not for a whole minute as you are now.
- No need to wait as all Cellnet Digital customers, new and existing will automatically be charged by the second from early March. Ask in store for details.

cellnet digital

BUY NOW AND ALSO GET 30 MINUTES FREE CALLS EVERY MONTH FOR A YEAR*

*WHEN YOU CONNECT TO A CELLNET DIGITAL TARIFF. FREE CALLS ARE OFF PEAK. CONNECTION TO MOBILE PHONE SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS. ASK IN STORE FOR DETAILS OR OFFERS.

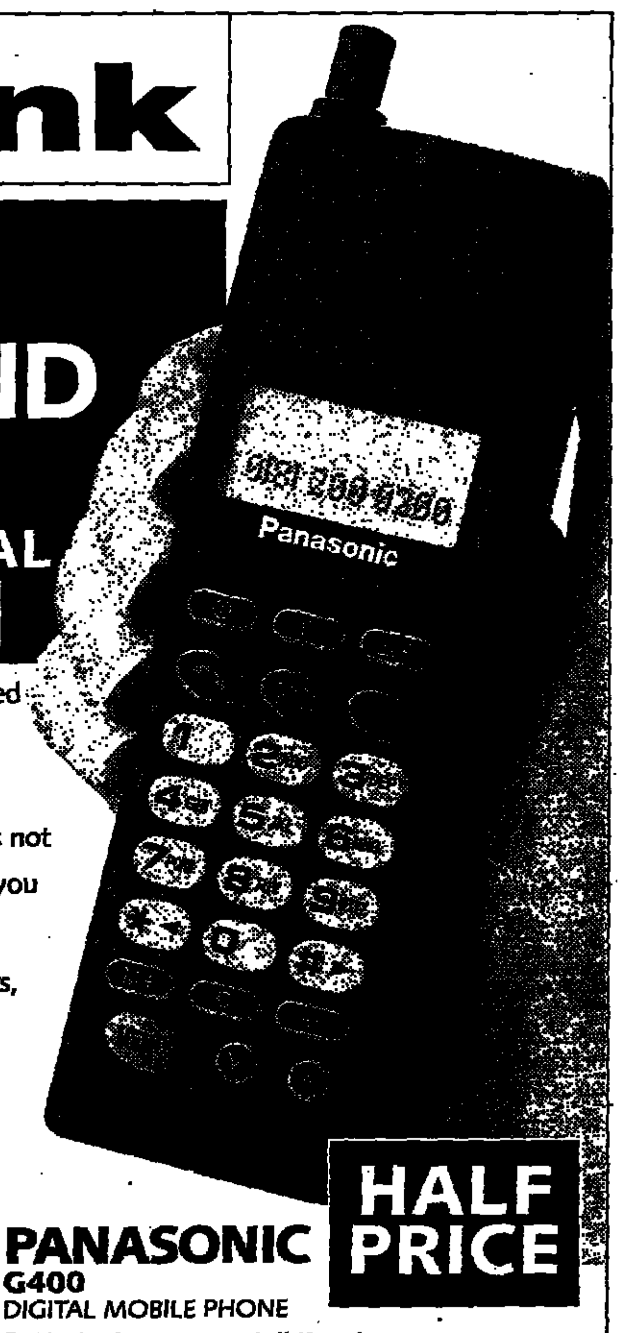
HALF PRICE
PANASONIC G400
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
- Up to 80 minutes talktime/ 18 hours standby.
- Unique voice memo facility. Was £99.99

£49.99*

BOSCH CarTel
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
£9.99*

Dixons
The Link
The Communications Specialist.

FREEPHONE 0500 222 666 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND FREE 48 PAGE CATALOGUE.



Tory MP's widow is favourite to fight his seat

By James Landale, political reporter

THE battle for South East Staffordshire begins tonight when local Tories select their candidate for the forthcoming by-election.

The party faithful in this Middle England heartland will gather at the Masonic Hall in Tamworth to choose a replacement for Sir David Lightbown, the sitting MP who died last December.

Sir David's widow, Anne, has reached the final shortlist of three and is favourite to win. Lady Lightbown, a 57-year-old former teacher, is popular and many Tories hope she will carry on where her larger-than-life husband left off. Although no date has been fixed, the poll is expected to take place next month.

With a Tory majority of just 7,192, Labour is clear favourite to win the seat. The party already controls both councils in the constituency.

But local Tories hope the new-found confidence of their MPs at Westminster will encourage traditional but wavering supporters in Tamworth. Many Tories know they have a slim chance of achieving what would be the first by-election victory for the government since William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, won Richmond in 1989. Although the Tory majority in Staffordshire South East dropped by 3,000 at the last election, the party's actual share of the vote went up. Tamworth Tories are also well aware of their market town's place in history as the birthplace of modern Conservatism. Sir Robert Peel's Tamworth address in December 1834 united a divided Tory party and set the stage for a revival of party fortunes.

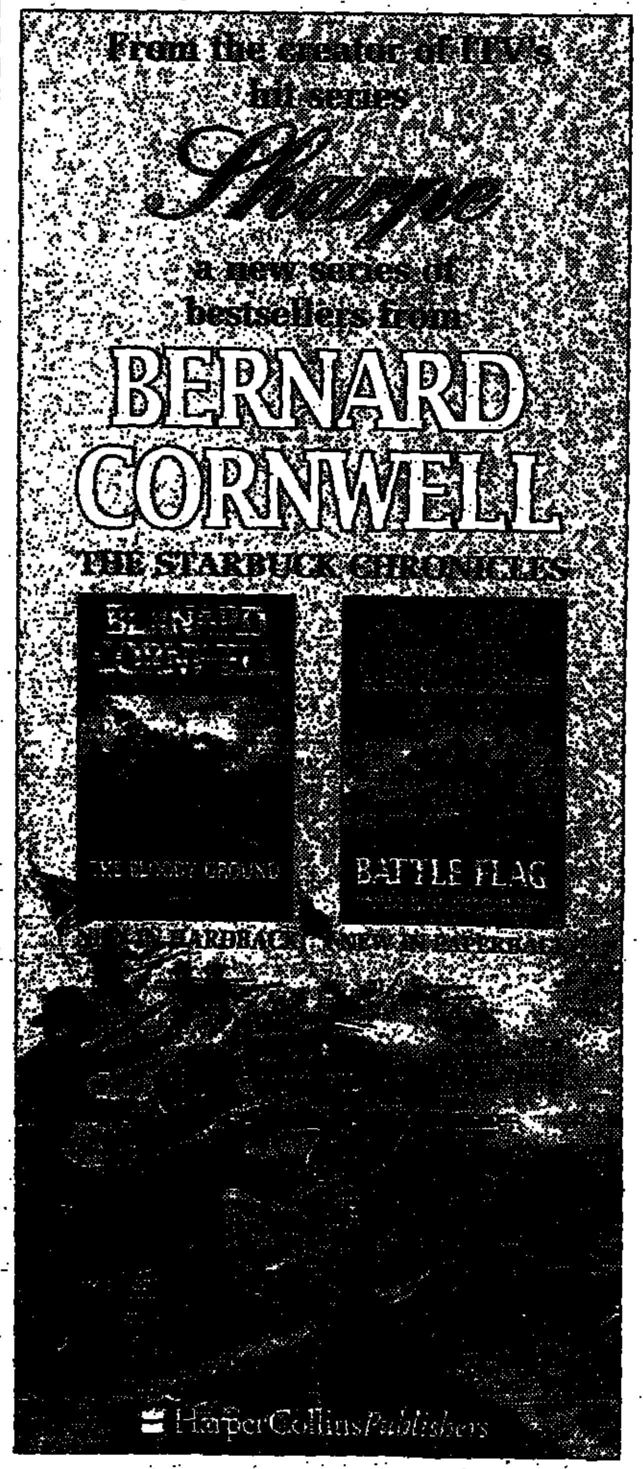
Ron Cook, the Tory party chairman, is convinced history will repeat itself and Tamworth will become a benchmark for a new era of Tory popularity. "The feel-good factor has returned to the party in Staffordshire South East," he said. "We will use this by-election as a springboard to win the next election."

However, the Labour candidate, Brian Jenkins, 53, leader of Tamworth Borough Council, says he is convinced that dissatisfaction over Tory tax rises and job insecurity will swing voters towards Labour.

☐ Six of the 25 or so Tory MPs who are seeking safer seats to fight at the general election have been shortlisted for Bury St Edmunds and will be interviewed this weekend. They are Robert Banks, Harrogate; Nicholas Hawkins, Blackpool South; Michael Stephen, Shoreham; Dame Janet Fookes, Plymouth Drake; John Watts, Slough; and Richard Spring, who was MP for the old constituency.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister followed by debates on the Royal Navy and Downham fire station. In the Lords: Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill, report; Humber Bridge (Debts) Bill, second reading; Gas (Northern Ireland) Order; future of British Council.
TODAY in the Commons: debates on the Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill; Trading Schemes Bill; the Medway Towns northern relief road.



From the creator of ITV's hit series
Sharpe
a new series of bestsellers from
BERNARD CORNWELL
THE STARBUCK CHRONICLES
[illegible] HARDBACK [illegible] NOW IN PAPERBACK
HarperCollins*Publishers*

هكذا ابن الأهل

ARTS 29-31

The musical that's all in the worst possible taste

EDUCATION 33

Why universities are planning a £300 student levy

SPORT 34-40

Clement Freud on South Africa's grand finale

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38,39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2 1996

Insurer aims to become £500m limited company

PPP to abandon provident status

By Patricia Tehan and Robert Miller

PPP, the private healthcare insurance group, is poised to announce plans to shed its provident status and become a limited company valued at an estimated £500 million.

The move, which could be announced as early as next week, is understood to be part of an attempt to maintain market share in an increasingly competitive market. It will provide greater flexibility in capital raising and could pave the way for another firm to take a significant share stake or for a stock market flotation.

As a provident association, which traces its routes back to 1938, PPP is not technically owned by anybody. It is a company limited by guarantee. In its present structure it has a 13-strong board of directors who run the business and sit on a board of 26 appointed governing members. This board includes members of Royal medical colleges, the British Medical Association, and independent lawyers and accountants. The members' governing board provides a guarantee, but their liability is limited to one guinea each.

This structure makes it difficult for the firm to raise capital or consider joint ventures.

PPP is thought to be about to create a trust vehicle that will own the company. This would enable it to meet corporate governance standards, to have greater flexibility for access to capital for acquisitions and to issue new shares that could be sold to a third party. Those thought likely to be interested include Abbey National, Legal & General and other insurers or building societies.

Last autumn PPP relaunched itself with a £30 million advertising campaign, a new corporate identity and a new range of products. It also changed its name from Private Patients Plan to PPP healthcare group, to reflect a mix of products.

The decision to change its structure follows an 18-month review of its business and strategy. For the past year this has been led by Peter Owen, a former British Airways senior executive, who came in as chief executive with the brief of turning PPP into a marketing-led organisation and to increase low consumer awareness of the company.

PPP is the UK's second biggest private medical insurer with a 27 per cent share. In 1994 its pre-tax surplus was £25.3 million, down from £39.9 million, after reorganisation costs. Net assets were £300 million. The new company would be valued at a premium to its net asset value, or an estimated £500 million.

Bupa, which is also a provident association, has a 45 per cent share of the market.

Bupa and PPP have been facing growing competition from banks, insurance companies and building societies whose traditional insurance and mortgage markets have been flat. Healthcare insurance is seen as a profitable market, given the increasing age of the population and the need for long-term care.

Abbey National bought Pegasus, a critical illness insurance and healthcare company, last year and is known to wish to increase its presence in the healthcare insurance market. Norwich Union, the large mutual insurer, is also attempting to increase its market share. The need for increased access to capital was behind Norwich Union's decision to seek a stock market flotation next year.

Guardian, the composite insurer, last year started to sell basic private health policies by telephone.

Nationwide last month announced changes aimed at reducing its dependence on traditional mortgage related products. These included the sale by Nationwide Life of a permanent health insurance policy bought in from PPP.

British Coal forced into retreat over pensions sale

By Christine Buckley

BRITISH COAL has been forced to halt the sale of its company that manages pensions worth £17 billion for miners and staff, after trustees derailed plans for Friends Provident to buy the business.

British Coal said it was disappointed that the sale had been scuppered after some trustees on the two pension funds — one for mineworkers and one for staff — objected because they feared job losses at CINMan, the management company, and because they wanted the funds managed in a more hands-off manner.

In December, British Coal sparked anger among sections of the trustees when it singled out Friends Provident as the preferred bidder for CINMan, after a lengthy search for a buyer. Many trustees preferred Sal Oppenheim, a German private bank.

Friends Provident is thought to have bid about £80 million to manage the funds, while Sal Oppenheim is understood to have offered about £18 million. The German bank would have largely backed CINMan from a distance and left its asset management staff intact. The Friends Provident proposal involved substantial economies of scale and undoubtedly would have led to job losses.

British Coal said it had a duty to realise the optimum for its assets, once quality thresholds were passed. But a sale of the pension-management business requires the consent of all trustees.

A spokesman added that the timetable for disposal, which had originally been set for the end of January on the hopes of securing a sale to Friends Provident, was flexible. He did not rule out continuing the sale past the deadline for British Coal to quit its London headquarters in July.

A source close to the trustees said they were sifting through options and may make a recommendation very shortly. Options would include inviting Sal Oppenheim back into the action and also drumming up support for a management buyout. However, if the trustees staged a buyout they would look to sell on the business within a couple of years, he added.

British Coal sold CINVen, its venture capital business, to a management buyout after looking for an external buyer. However, although a buyout is being considered it is thought to be second to winning the backing of a hands-off financial backer without an asset-management arm.

Friends Provident said yesterday that it would not submit further proposals.

Facia and Sears find a fit

By Sarah Bagnall

STEPHEN Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, is about to expand his retail empire early next week with the purchase of Saxone and Curtess, two high street shoe chains owned by Sears.

The deal will come less than a month after Sears publicly revealed the chains were up for sale. Liam Strong, Sears chief executive, said the company had decided to sell its 111 Saxone and 124 Curtess stores and that if no deal materialised relatively quickly, then the stores would be closed with the loss of 1,700 jobs.

In the space of two years Mr Hinchliffe — dubbed king of the high street in Sheffield — has built from scratch one of the biggest privately owned retail companies in the country. This deal will be the second between Facia, Mr Hinchliffe's company, and Sears.

Last August, Facia acquired 245 shoe shops in the Freeman Hardy Willis, Trueform and Manfield chains from Sears. These joined Mr Hinchliffe's string of existing businesses, including Sock Shop, Salisbury, the handbag business, Torq, the costume jewellery chain, and Red or Dead, the fashion and footwear company.

GILL ALLEN

Riding high at half-time and ahead of expectations, Kevin Lomax at Misys

Shares jump as Misys springs profits surprise

By Martin Barrow

SHARES in Misys rose almost 10 per cent yesterday after the software company reported an increase in half-year profits to £19.2 million before tax from £11.2 million.

The shares ended 62p higher at 637p as analysts reassessed forecasts for the full year. The results, covering the six months to November 30, are the first to include a full contribution from ACT, a software company acquired by Misys last year for £193 million.

Kevin Lomax, chairman of Misys, said the results were ahead of the company's own expectations and reflected a particularly strong contribution from the enlarged banking division.

"The pattern of trading is developing as expected and should result in a stronger bias towards the second half than normal," said Mr Lomax. Assimilation of the former ACT businesses was now substantially complete.

Group revenues increased to £129.5 million from £63.9 million. Most of the increase came from the addition of the ACT banking businesses to existing banking operations, where sales increased to £64.3 million from £15.7 million.

Mr Lomax said the worldwide consolidation now underway in the applications software products industry would provide further opportunities to expand internationally. The level of borrowings was reduced to £5.9 million from £12.4 million during the first half, leaving the company well-placed to consider bolt-on acquisitions. The banking division expects to benefit from growth in demand from emerging economies.

The interim dividend is increased to 3.97p a share from 3.45p, payable April 4. Earnings were 16.9p a share, rising from 16.2p.

Tempus, page 24

Business Today

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3752.8	(-6.5)
Yield	3.82%	
FT-SE A All share	1840.21	(-1.75)
Nikkei	20935.12	(+122.38)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5377.24	(-18.06)*
S&P Composite	635.42	(-0.60)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	111 7/32*	(111 12/32)
Yield	6.05%*	(6.03%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 7/32%	(6 7/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	110 18/32	(110 7/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5138*	(1.5130)
London:		
$	1.5139	(1.5110)
DM	2.2585	(2.2482)
FFr	7.7510	(7.7178)
SFr	1.8459	(1.8287)
Yen	162.08	(161.54)
£ Index	83.6	(83.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4933*	(1.4888)
FFr	5.1233*	(5.1045)
SFr	1.2192*	(1.2115)
Yen	107.04*	(107.02)
$ Index	96.7	(96.6)

Tokyo close Yen 107.03

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.25	($16.15)

GOLD

London close	$410.35	($405.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Tunnel blast

Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel and former chairman of the Private Finance Initiative, is expected to launch a strong attack on the Government's handling of the cross Channel rail link. He is also expected to make recommendations on how future large scale financial projects should be handled. **Page 22**

Bid agreed

Trade Indemnity, the credit risk insurance company, yesterday agreed to accept a takeover bid worth £177.3 million from a French company. **Page 23**

Production falls to three-year low

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

PRODUCTION from British manufacturers hit a three-year low in January, leading to the first decline in manufacturing employment for two years, according to the latest survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

However, there was a glimmer of better times ahead with news of a rise in orders and separate figures suggesting that British exporters are performing reasonably well in the face of the severe economic slowdown in continental Europe. Britain's trade deficit narrowed to its lowest level for eight months in November, falling to £567 million from £1.63 billion in October, according to the Central Statistical Office.

One key to both sets of statistics is the continuing effect of last year's huge build-up of stocks as demand tailed off sharply. Yesterday's figures suggest that output is being kept down as companies try to reduce these stock levels and, for the same reason, imports have been subdued as companies meet their demand for foreign materials from stocks. At the same time, exports have continued to grow surprisingly healthily.

The Purchasing Managers' Index stood at 50.2 in January compared with 50.8 in December. Any reading below 50 indicates a contraction of manufacturing. The index has been hovering around 50 for five months, reflecting virtual stagnation in the sector.

But although employment fell for the first time in two years, orders, particularly for consumer goods, showed the strongest rise since August. This suggests that, once stocks are wound down, output should recover relatively quickly.

Seasonal surge in consumer credit

By Our Economics Correspondent

CREDIT card borrowing soared in December, backing up other evidence of a relatively buoyant Christmas in the high street, according to figures from the Bank of England.

There was an increase in net consumer credit of £797 million compared with a rise of £600 million recorded in November. The December figures topped off a year which saw a total increase in consumer credit of £7.51 billion, the biggest rise since this statistical series began in 1991.

Economists noted that these strong borrowing figures may not necessarily reflect higher spending. Gross lending fell slightly in December, suggesting that the surge in credit related partly to lower repayments rather than extra spending. In addition, a proliferation of zero interest rate schemes has encouraged people to use credit instead of cash.

Nevertheless, the figures overall suggest that consumers are beginning to gain in confidence. Separate figures from the British Bankers' Association confirmed that personal borrowing is quite buoyant. The association said that mortgage lending was up 9 per cent in the final three months of the year compared with the third quarter and consumer credit was up by almost a third.

Total lending was up by £6.36 billion in the final quarter and about 70 per cent of this was accounted for by lending to individuals.

Final figures for M4 money supply showed annual growth in the measure of 9.9 per cent. Broad money has now been growing faster than the upper limit of its 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range for three months.

BUSINESS ACCOUNTS

IS YOUR BANK LAUGHING ALL THE WAY?

BANKS	INTEREST EARNED AFTER COSTS*
High Street Bank	-£114.00
High Street Bank	-£75.00
High Street Bank	-£3.00
High Street Bank	-£74.30
Cater Allen Bank	£425.00

Annual interest earned on a credit balance of £10,000 after deduction of costs for 150 transactions per quarter. *Source. Calculation based on interest rates supplied by Moneyfacts and on charges obtained from high street banks. Information correct at time of going to print.

It's no wonder. Just look at our chart.

After costs and interest earned, you would owe the high street bank with the worst performing account £114. But, with the Cater Allen Corporate High Interest Cheque Account, you would be £539 better off.

Why? Because we pay a higher interest rate and will give you 150 free transactions each quarter.

This account is for businesses that maintain a credit balance and the higher interest rate reflects your status.

Call us now and together we will create the most suitable package to meet your needs. We can also give you details of other Cater Allen onshore and offshore services.

FREEPHONE 0800 716177

CATER ALLEN BANK 1816

Cater Allen Limited Registered office, 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3V 9DJ.
Registered number 383032 England. Authorised under the Banking Act 1987.
Regulated by SFA. Member of The London Stock Exchange.

هكذا عن الاعطاء

Britannia up 12% as provision reduced

By Karen Zagor

BRITANNIA, which will be Britain's third biggest building society when the latest wave of mergers and conversions subsides, posted a 12 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits to £112.7 million.

Profits were helped by a 43 per cent reduction in provisions for bad debts to £25 million.

During the year, Britannia's total mortgage lending fell 24 per cent to £903.8 million, but its loan book rose 4 per cent as a result of the purchase of the Lloyds Bowmaker mortgage book in July. The society blamed the decline in lending to a subdued housing market in 1995.

The number of mortgage accounts in arrears last year dropped 40 per cent. The Britannia said this was achieved by reaching realistic payment agreements with customers rather than significantly increasing the number of repossessions.

Provisions for bad and doubtful debts linked to mortgages were cut by 45 per cent to £18.3 million in the year.

In 1995 the Britannia's assets advanced 10 per cent to £14.9 billion. Net interest receivable edged 2 per cent higher to £193 million.

Britannia's wholly owned life assurance subsidiary brought in profits of £20.5 million, from £17.7 million in 1994. The improvement was credited to lower management expenses and stricter cost controls.

John Heaps, chief executive, stressed that the society is firmly committed to mutuality and would shortly reveal long-term rewards for current and future members.

Although the Britannia led the pack when it announced plans to offer members tangible rewards last July, it has lagged behind the Bradford & Bingley and the Yorkshire building societies in unveiling its membership loyalty scheme.

Sir Alastair Morton will explain how he believes large-scale private sector projects should be handled in future

Morton launches attack over Eurotunnel debts

By George Sivell

SIR ALASTAIR MORTON, co-chairman of the hugely indebted Eurotunnel group that runs the channel tunnel, is expected today to say that future private sector financial projects should not follow the Eurotunnel model.

In a speech to the Engineering Council, Sir Alastair is expected to lambast the Government's handling of the Eurotunnel project. Sir Alastair, who recently stepped down as chairman of the Private Finance Initiative, is likely to say: "A PFI concession or contract is not like a privatisation prospectus — something Her Majesty's Government can file and forget after a few years."

On Eurotunnel, he believes: "Beyond doubt, one should not structure another project like that. The governments, the promoters, and the banks now pounding on our doors must recognise their part in generating this overloaded structure."

Sir Alastair is also convinced that: "The project structure erected in 1985-87 had welded into it the excessive stresses which have since caused so much difficulty. When the overstressed structure failed to deliver on time, the too-short financing structure staggered and then fell. We are now rebuilding the finances to last but, I say again, the Channel Tunnel is and will be open for business."

For the future, Sir Alastair believes: "Project financing must evolve because infrastructure and public service needs are mounting across the face of Europe, which faces the 21st Century with an investment backlog. You cannot simply spend huge public funds to make good a massive investment deficit."

Sir Alastair is expected to draw three lessons from the Eurotunnel experience:

☐ It is imperative that there be an operator at the heart of the project from the outset.

☐ It is possible to blend public purse and private capital in PFI projects.

☐ A PFI project is done by private sector capital to the specification of a government department, agency or authority.

He is convinced that both the specifying authority and the project operator "have to make promises and keep them — adjusting where necessary to ensure delivery of the real substance of what was promised". Sir Alastair is expected to make the point that "Eurotunnel is currently making clear to the English and French Governments that certain promises have not been delivered".

He is expected to list examples of where project parameters were changed during its construction and early life:

☐ Ministers were able to force more safety provision into the design and operation without paying for it.

☐ BR was broken up without regard to the delivery of promises of efficient operation and traffic development, so far without redress.

☐ The key channel of massive subsidy to the ferries, airports and airlines (intra Community duty free privileges) was improperly extended beyond 1 January 1, 1993, to the heavy disadvantage of the Tunnel.

SIB acts on rogue forex dealers

By Jon Ashworth

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB) has moved to clamp down on unauthorised foreign exchange dealing amid fears that private investors are being exposed to high-risk transactions and high-pressure sales tactics.

Firms have been given a month to seek authorisation under the Financial Services Act (1986) or risk being closed down.

The number of firms to offer such services has soared in the past year, and currently stands at about 37. They have circumvented the rules by rolling over trading contracts every six days, just short of the seven-day limit under which authorisation would be required. Investors who deal under such conditions do not have access to the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). The SIB is anxious to bring such dealing into its net.

One investor is reported to have lost close to £200,000 in five months of trading the currency markets. He is reported to have paid £35,700 in commission and fees. Another investor reportedly lost £74,200, and paid £27,000 in fees — about 36 per cent of his trading losses. Investors have complained of being telephoned as many as ten times a day by aggressive salesmen.

The SIB has received a number of legal submissions from firms which claim they do not require authorisation in order to trade. Some may challenge the SIB ruling in court. About a quarter of the firms involved have indicated that they will seek authorisation.

Peter Ellis, managing director of London Currency Exchange, based in west London, welcomed the SIB move, and said the firm would be seeking authorisation. He said: "Currency trading is very much in vogue at the moment. People are much more aware of what is going on in the market." Another London firm, Global Foreign Exchange, refused to take questions over the telephone.

Firms have until March 1 to apply for authorisation. The SIB is prepared to seek High Court injunctions to restrain unauthorised trading.

Bundesbank leaves rates untouched

THE Bundesbank left official German interest rates on hold yesterday, as the financial markets had expected, and, at the same time, appeared to call a halt to its policy of pushing its key repo money market rate lower by announcing a fixed-rate tender for the next fortnight at 3.30 per cent, 10 basis points lower than earlier this week. The repo rate has fallen by 0.35 per cent over the past four weeks, an unusually large drop.

In spite of the lack of action on leading rates from Germany, the Bank of France responded to the cut in interest rates in America on Wednesday by cutting its key intervention rate to 4.05 per cent, from 4.20 per cent. The French central bank last cut rates on January 18, when it shaved 0.25 per cent off the intervention rate. The Fed's decision to cut American rates appeared to be vindicated yesterday by news that US consumer prices had risen by only 0.2 per cent in December.

Whirlpool disappoints

WHIRLPOOL CORP reported "disappointing" fourth-quarter and full-year profits owing to sharp cost increases and a deterioration of markets in Western Europe. Confirming its earlier forecasts, the world's leading manufacturer of major home appliances reported net income of $18 million, or 25 cents a share, for the three months to December 31, and profits of $209 million, or $2.80 a share, for 1995. While those earnings were better than 1994 when the company took a $187 million restructuring charge, they were well below the last year's operating results.

Vibroplant shares fall

SHARES in Vibroplant fell by more than 11 per cent after the plant hire company warned shareholders that trading conditions have continued to deteriorate in the UK. The shares fell to 86p from 97p yesterday after Jeremy Pilkington, chairman and chief executive, said the impact of the downturn would be reflected in second-half results. The company has posted to shareholders details of the proposed disposal of its Hi-Lift subsidiary in America to Primeco Inc for a total of £68.8 million. Terms of the deal will be considered by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on February 15.

Tax-avoidance inquiry

THE Tax Law Review Committee, set up by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in autumn 1994 and enjoying cross-party support, announced yesterday that it is to look at tax avoidance. The project is expected to take at least a year. The committee said many people believed that government efforts to thwart tax avoidance is a root cause of incomprehensible tax legislation. The tax-avoidance project will complement the work already being undertaken by the committee on simplifying the tax system, and the Inland Revenue's project to rewrite tax law in plain English.

Deloitte global move

THE management consulting arm of the former Touche Ross has joined up with its US company to form a new global management consultancy, Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group. The aim is to separate the new company from its accounting and tax parent, Deloitte, Touche, Tohmatsu International. The move is part of the current trend within accounting organisations to follow their clients in linking up and providing identical services across borders. The new company will owe its partner's incomes and its profits to a global rather than the UK company.

TRW plans £24m plant

AN AMERICAN company is to create a total of 275 new jobs with a £24 million factory development in Peterlee, County Durham, an area which has been hit by pit closures. TRW Inc, the supplier of car safety components, will build a 50,000 sq ft factory to produce airbag inflators . It will employ 60 people when it opens in December, but the workforce is expected to rise to 275 by the year 2000, bringing the total number of employees at TRW's 10 factories around Britain — half of them in the North East — to 2,800.

Discrimination 'rife'

BRITAIN'S workplaces are "rife" with discriminition, business leaders will be told today as new survey evidence suggests that almost half of the UK's employees believe that discrimination at work is widespread. Details of a survey by consultants Austin Knight, which will be put to a London conference today, show that only 53 per cent of the people sampled felt that career opportunities are the same for everyone with identical qualification, regardless of sex, race or other differences. Age was seen as the most widespread form of discrimination.

Higher pay forecast

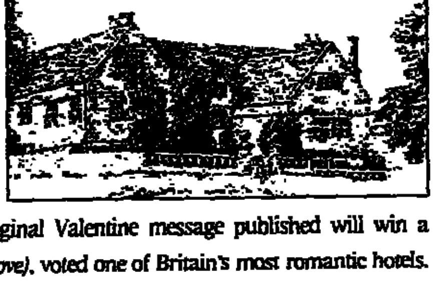
PAY increases for clerical and manual workers are set to rise in the coming year, a new pay study forecasts today. The survey by Reward, the pay group, shows that clerical staff received rises averaging 3.2 per cent in the past 12 months, while increases for manual workers were 3 per cent. But employers sampled in the survey of more than 1,000 organisations suggest that increases are likely to be higher this year, with rises of 3.7 per cent for clerical workers and 3.5 per cent for manual employees.

Baldwins halts flotation

BALDWINS Industrial Services, the UK's third largest mobile crane hire and lifting service business, has shelved its proposed flotation, the group announced yesterday. It said that the terms available for the flotation were not acceptable to the family shareholders, who had decided not to proceed at this time. The company, based at Slough, Berkshire, said it and the shareholders were reviewing options with their professional advisers.

THE TIMES
PRESENTS
Valentine's Day
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
aramis

This year, experience the sweet smell of romance...



Once again. The Times offers *the* most romantic environment for your Valentine's Day messages. Through our exclusive arrangement with Aramis, we can send on your behalf a 30ml bottle of *Tuscany Per Donna Eau de Parfum* for the ladies, or *Tuscany Per Uomo Eau de Toilette* for the gentlemen, together with a card which reads: "Look for your message in The Times on Valentine's Day." Furthermore, the most original Valentine message published will win a weekend break at Riber Hall, Derbyshire *(above)*, voted one of Britain's most romantic hotels. There will also be a runner-up prize of a case of champagne.*

Write your message below (One word per box, minimum 3 lines)				Price	Price with Gift
				—	—
				—	—
				£19	£29
				£24	£34
				£30	£40

£5 for each extra line - further lines may be attached on a separate sheet of paper.

YOUR DETAILS
Initial Surname
Address
Post Code
Telephone No.

YOUR VALENTINE'S DETAILS
Name
Address
Post Code
Tick box if you would like to send a gift ☐

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd. or debit my credit card by £ CARD NO:
CREDIT CARD EXPIRY DATE:
SIGNATURE

Please send this coupon with remittance to: Valentine Messages, The Times, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BL
FAX: 0171 782 7827.
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS TEL: 0171 481 4000.
All messages with gift must be received no later than Wednesday 7th February 1996. We reserve the right to amend an advertisement. *Standard terms & conditions apply.

House prices rise again

By Caroline Merrell

HOUSE prices have risen for the sixth month in succession, according to the monthly Halifax house price index.

The small monthly rise of 0.1 per cent in January means that house prices have risen by 1.3 per cent over the past six months, but are still 1.2 per cent below their level of a year ago. The Halifax said: "This is further confirmation that house prices are no longer generally falling, but our optimism about recovery is still tinged with caution."

At the beginning of the year, the Halifax, Nationwide and other house price analysts predicted that prices would rise by 2 to 3 per cent over 1996.

They claimed that a house price recovery would be helped by tax cuts, money from maturing Tessas and the profits reaped by private investors from the bids in the electricity sector.

The prices paid by first-time buyers also rose by 0.1 per cent in January, but are down 0.1 per cent compared to the same time last year. The price of new houses rose by 2.4 per cent in January and are now 5.9 per cent above their level of a year ago.

Forecast by LBS expects global recovery in 1996

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

INTEREST RATE cuts over the past year in America, Europe and Japan should prevent the current slowdown in the world economy from developing into a recession, according to the London Business School.

In its latest economic outlook, the LBS forecasts that growth in the Group of Seven industrialised countries should average 2.3 per cent this year, a similar rate to that recorded in 1995.

Two other reasons are highlighted to support its view of a global recovery this year. First, an environment of low inflation will allow interest rates to fall further, if necessary, in most economies. Secondly, the economies of Asia and the Pacific region remain buoyant and there are now genuine grounds for optimism that Japan will see a more meaningful recovery this year.

The British economy is forecast to grow by around 2.6 per cent, lower than the Chancellor's forecast of 3 per cent but still the fastest growth of any European country. The school said that it expects growth to be led by strengthening consumer spending — forecast to rise by 2.9 per cent this year, compared with the Chancellor's forecast of 3.5 per cent — and by a resumption of investment growth. It predicts that inflation will remain low and that interest rates will fall to 5.75 per cent by early next year, compared with 6.25 per cent now.

However, the report also highlights some risks to the outlook, including efforts to reduce deficits in Europe and the US, and structural rigidities, particularly in Europe.

The LBS said: "Continental Europe displays neither the entrepreneurial dynamism nor the flexible labour market structures, which have helped the US economy adjust to similar challenges."

It also notes that the strong mark, and those currencies that move most closely with it, is contributing to sluggish growth in Europe. At the same time, European countries with weaker currencies — such as Britain, Italy and Spain — have been most successful at maintaining growth.

Clifford Chance faces writs over Canary Wharf

Canadian banks sue law firm

By Jon Ashworth

CLIFFORD CHANCE, the UK's largest law firm, has confirmed that it is being sued for £610 million by four Canadian banks that suffered in the Canary Wharf collapse, but dismissed the action as "nothing to worry about". Writs were lodged in London and Toronto last June, but the action has only now come to light.

Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), Bank of Nova Scotia, and National Bank of Canada, allege that Clifford Chance provided incorrect information in a legal opinion in 1989. The four were in the consortium of banks that controlled Canary Wharf until its recent sale, and claim to have lost out through allegedly negligent advice.

The Docklands development collapsed into administration in 1992 after the failure of its parent, Olympia & York Developments, and was subsequently bailed out by the banks. They in turn sold out to a consortium including Paul Reichmann, the Canadian property developer, and Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the billionaire Saudi investor. The £800 million deal was clinched in December 1995, netting the banks a return of about 95p in the pound.

Clifford Chance confirmed that proceedings began last year in connection with the collapse of Olympia & York, to which the four claimant banks had lent £450 million in all. The firm said: "The Canadian courts are currently determining whether they have jurisdiction ... To date, no evidence has been produced to us that any loss was incurred by these banks in relation to these loans following the collapse of Olympia & York as a result of any alleged negligence on the part of Clifford Chance.

"If the banks pursue the claim, they will have to provide evidence of the alleged loss. They have yet to provide any evidence. We are confident that there is nothing to worry about."

According to CIBC's claim, the bank's belief that it would control the completion, leasing and sale of Canary Wharf was frustrated because of Clifford Chance's alleged negligence.

Sir Peter Levene, the former chairman of Canary Wharf, has criticised as "abominable" the role of North American banks in the run-up to the sale, singling out CIBC and Royal Bank of Canada for criticism.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	16.87	15.37
Belgium Fr	48.37	45.07
Canada $	2.189	2.029
Cyprus Cyp£	0.755	0.700
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.46	6.81
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	393.00	368.00
Hong Kong $	12.36	11.36
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lira	2505.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	176.30	160.30
Malta	0.590	0.535
Netherlds Gld	2.679	2.449
New Zealand $	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.45	9.65
Portugal Esc	244.50	225.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.26
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	11.11	10.31
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	refer	90805.0
USA $	1.612	1.482

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Hippocratic oath doesn't preclude making a profit ☐ Taking stock of the biotech boom ☐ EU offers a poor role model

Heading for a healthy future

☐ GLAXO WELLCOME will make at least £3 billion of profit this year out of the sufferings of millions of people.

The company has aroused the occasional ire of Aids campaigners for charging for its AZT compound, but this is an isolated case. Pharmaceuticals companies may not be the most popular around, but there is no serious ideological opposition to their right to turn a profit.

Any local health trust, however, would blanch at the mere mention of the "p" word and must these days avoid all mention of its near neighbour in the dictionary, privatisation.

It is an odd dichotomy, but we have such utopian expectations of the caring professions. Drug companies may make money, but doctors must not.

Private medicine occupies an uncomfortable position somewhere in the middle, but the private medical insurers have always had the fig-leaf of being provident mutual companies. They may charge for cover, but such charges balance costs and there are no profits.

Once PPP, one of the three big mutual companies providing private insurance cover, does demutualise, it will have to cope with both "p" words, and the resulting political stink.

If the insurer is quoted on the stock market, it will not be for long, because there are any number of potential buyers. Demutualisation, however it is sold to members, looks like nothing less than a precursor to a sale. But a profit-making PPP, whether freestanding or part of a bigger group, would look uncomfortably like an American ambulance-chaser to some — and that is before executives start cashing in their share options.

Flotation is an option now because the private health insurance industry is in rather better shape than a few years ago, when several of the mutuals nearly went bust. The problem was the frequency of trivial claims, and the tendency of patients with pre-existing complaints to sign up shortly after these have been diagnosed.

The solution was a more rigorous weeding-out of the latter, and a more restrictive approach to problems treated.

There are currently approaching seven million people covered by private health insurance, and the majority did not sign up for it — the cover arrived as part of their terms of employment, under a company scheme. The industry is concentrating on those outside such schemes, or those pushed outside by companies contracting out their staff.

Demutualisation will bring its benefits, in terms of capital-raising and the cutting of cumbersome historic ties with the medical profession. But imagine the scene a few years hence. The chief executive of PPP is grilled by City analysts at the annual results. How many medical staff have been laid off? Is there scope for further cuts in the services provided? How much have costs per patient fallen? It all seems a long way from the Hippocratic oath.

Up like a rocket, down like a stone

☐ IF the rapid rise in biotechnology shares last year was baffling, yesterday's equally rapid collapse was entirely predictable. Celltech reported that it and Merck, its financial sponsor, had scrapped the development of a once-promising asthma drug, known only as CDP 840. Celltech investors fled in droves, and the shares lost a quarter of their value within minutes.

The City's savviest dealers should have seen it coming. Celltech and its rivals climbed throughout 1995 and went into overdrive in December, when British Biotechnology, the best-known player in the sector, revealed positive results on the clinical trial of a cancer drug.

Celltech and the others did absolutely nothing to warrant their gains; they just had the good fortune of being part of the same industry and were swept along in the euphoria. Not long ago the phenomenally successful flotation of America's Netscape triggered the same hysterical buying of the fledgling Internet companies.

Investors routinely forget that it is one thing to discover a compound and prove it can help mankind, and another to develop and market it. The tiny biotech companies are fairly good at the former but rarely have the financial means for the latter. It takes years of effort and hundreds of millions of pounds to bring a drug to market, and they cannot do it alone.

So Glaxo Wellcome, Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham could reveal at any time that their own rocket scientists have discovered dozens of razzle-dazzle compounds. They don't bother because a compound without a fully financed development plan is next to worthless.

The biotech sector will survive yesterday's sell-off. Good clinical trials from any of them will trigger a new wave of buying. So will the publication of encouraging circulars from brokers, who have their own reasons for starting the ball rolling again.

The industry, however, has a long way to go before it loses its casino image. The next rally, inevitably, will be followed by another dramatic sell-off. And so it will go on. For private investors, careful timing is the only guarantee of success. That, and not being too greedy.

Go East, young free-trader

☐ THE great case against the Maastricht mentality was that widening the union to include former Communist states was more urgent and important. Not so, the anti-Maastricht Adam Smith Institute claims in a new report, *The Eastern Market*.

According to the author, Michael Bell, a former Brussels groupie, the countries of Eastern and Central Europe would just prop up the EU's centralised, bureaucratic and protectionist tendencies. They would be better off aping Hong Kong's open-trade practices in their own outward-looking free-trade area. In any case, the EU will not easily or rapidly let them in.

All this is undoubtedly true, but another great lost opportunity of 1989. It would have been better if Austria, Sweden and Finland had stayed out of the EU, instead expanding their rump free-trade area to the East. This could have encompassed Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and former Soviet states faster in a less demanding, more honest, half-way house.

Austria *et al* had other entrenched priorities, and the EU marketed itself skilfully. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic judged, as Greece, Spain and Portugal once did, that joining the EU was the best option to guarantee their new democracy.

In doing so, they opted, as so many do, for a chance at the lottery rather than the solid progress earned by virtue. Sadly, they have not won and the political lure conceals nasty economic surprises.

Confidence trick

☐ FROM the Department of Coincidental Statistics comes the news that the housing market is, indeed, on the up again. This is the same housing market that was going to hell in a hand-basket before the last Budget and needed massive government assistance. Now, we hear from the Halifax of "a gradually rising trend for the past six months". If appeals to the Government fail, you can always fall back on some recovery in confidence . . . a recovery that can always be stoked by news of rising house prices.

DES JENSON

Trading places: John Bishop, chief executive of Trade Indemnity, with Jean Lanier, director-general of Compagnie Financière, yesterday

Trade Indemnity succumbs to £177m takeover by French

By Sarah Cunningham

TRADE INDEMNITY, the credit risk insurance company, yesterday agreed to accept a takeover bid worth £177.3 million from Compagnie Financière SFAC of France.

Commercial Union, the Guardian Royal Exchange, Munich Re and Swiss Re, which together own 53 per cent of Trade Indemnity, have accepted the 97p-a-share offer and can only change tack in the case of a higher offer, which analysts thought unlikely.

The terms represent a 33 per cent premium on the 73p closing share price on Wednesday. Trade Indemnity shareholders will also get a second interim dividend of 1.4p a share. The company's shares rose 24p yesterday to close at 97p, matching the offer price.

The takeover would mean no leading export credit companies remaining in British hands. The Government sold the short-term operations of the Export Credits Guarantee Department to NMC, a Dutch company, in 1991. John Bishop, Chief Executive of Trade Indemnity, said: "We are not becoming French. We are creating a major international group. What is important is the quality of the service."

The NMC operation now controls about 35 per cent of the UK credit insurance market, concentrating on the export side, while Trade Indemnity controls some 44 per cent, predominantly domestic but with a growing presence in the export market.

Trade Indemnity issues its 1995 results on February 16 — they will reflect the 1992 underwriting year — and is confident of good figures. Pretax profits in 1994, for the difficult 1991 underwriting year, were £5 million. As the credit risk insurance business tends to follow the performance of the economy as a whole, analysts expect Trade Indemnity's 1995 results to be more than £20 million.

Trade Indemnity would keep its own name, and Mr Bishop said he did not expect any job cuts. Compagnie Financière SFAC, the holding company, will have a new, "more international" name, he said. He will join the expanded group's executive committee, along with Paul-Henri Denieuil, managing director of the French group, and Jean Lanier, its director-general.

Mr Bishop said he hoped the expanded group would be able to improve its ability to provide services to multinational clients, helped by the sharing of commercial data and the joint development of information technology.

The French group is the largest export credit insurer in France, with AGF, the French insurer, holding the biggest stake — 49.9 per cent. It owns a controlling share in COBAC, Belgium's leading credit insurer, and a 17 per cent interest in COFACE, the French state-controlled export credit insurer.

Tempus, page 24

Welsh Water plans a name change

By Christine Buckley

WELSH WATER proposes to change its name to Hyder — Welsh for confidence — after the takeover of South Wales Electricity to form Britain's second super utility (Pennington, this page).

While the water and electricity businesses will continue to trade under their old names to avoid customer confusion, the entity that controls both will be Hyder. The super utility formed from North West Water and Norweb electricity was named United Utilities.

Welsh Water, which must secure shareholder approval for the change of name, said: "Welsh Water's philosophy is to provide a quality of infrastructure and service which earns the confidence of its customers."

Welsh Water's offer for Swalec became unconditional on Wednesday.

Gas-link design is overhauled after protests

By Christine Buckley

PLANS for a gas link between the UK and the Continent have been overhauled after a stream of protests in north Norfolk.

A planning application for the connection, which is being developed by a group of energy companies led by British Gas, provoked environmental anger with proposals to build surface works on farmland next to British Gas's plant at Bacton. The application was rejected by North Norfolk District Council.

The new scheme, which will go to the council today, involves building the terminal within British Gas's existing plant, so no extension of the gas complex will be necessary. The Interconnector consortium had originally ruled out such an option because it felt that the development could disturb the present pipeline network at Bacton, from which British Gas serves south-east England. The consortium says that engineering innovations have now overcome such risks.

Dr Philip Nolan, managing director of Interconnector, said that the new plans should appease the "understandable concerns" of local people about the environmental impact of a standalone site for the pipeline, which will run 150 miles to Zeebrugge, Belgium. He said: "We recognise that the new proposal is still subject to planning approval, but we believe that it addresses the wishes and concerns of local representatives and residents."

Dr Nolan said that the scheme would run on schedule, with the first gas due to flow by October 1998, if planning approval is granted.

Unilever in Irish tea deal

By Alasdair Murray

UNILEVER, the detergents and foods company, has continued its buying spree with the £78 million acquisition of the Irish arm of Lyons, the tea producer.

Unilever said that it was buying the 75 per cent stake in the company from Allied Domecq, the drinks company. A cash offer will be made for remaining shares at a similar price once the deal is complete.

The final price is dependent on a reduction for any dividend payments made by Lyons before the sale is finalised and a £3.8 million payment for Lyons Irish Enteprises, the holding company.

Lyons Irish Holdings is the market leader in Ireland's £40 million a year tea market. Ireland has the highest per capita tea consumption in the world, at 3.2 kilograms a year.

Allied Domecq said that the sale formed part of its strategy to dispose of its food interests and brought disposals to £600 million in the past 18 months.

Unilever, whose chairman is Sir Michael Perry, also announced that it will buy AVO, a Dutch cleaning systems supplier, for an undisclosed sum. AVO has a turnover of £6 million.

Last month, Unilever spent £360 million on the acquisition of Diversey, a Canadian detergent producer.

Perry: Dutch acquisition

Biotech shares hit as Celltech scraps drug

By Eric Reguly

BIOTECHNOLOGY shares slumped yesterday after Celltech reported that the company and Merck, its financial sponsor, had scrapped the development of a once-promising asthma drug (See Pennington, this page).

Celltech shares fell 24 per cent, from 681p to 518p, triggering a wave of selling in the sector. Chiroscience dropped 15p to 284p and Scotia Holdings 7p to 603p. Many biotech shares had been trading close to their 52-week highs before the announcement.

Celltech said the drug, known as CDP 840, "did not reach the level which Merck and Celltech believed to be achievable and necessary in order to represent a significant therapeutic advance." Merck had given Celltech £7.5 million since 1994 to develop it.

British Biotech, the largest company in the biotech sector, was swept up in the selling but managed to raise £47.5 million yesterday from the subscription of shares under warrant. Holders of almost 9 million warrants subscribed to new shares at 525p apiece, representing 99 per cent of the warrants on issue. The shares closed at 2113p, down 10p.

Forte celebration ends up as a wake

By Eric Reguly

IT WAS supposed to be Forte's finest moment. When, on January 16, the company called an extraordinary general meeting to approve the sale of its roadside eateries to Whitbread, it was still confident that it could repel Granada's £3.8 billion hostile takeover offer. Yesterday's meeting would, in effect, have been a victory celebration.

It was also supposed to be Sir Anthony Tennant's first appearance as chairman. Sir Rocco Forte ceded that role, in the heat of battle last month, to try to win support from institutional shareholders.

Instead, the meeting was a melancholy affair — and extremely short. Forte had booked the Dauphin Dubarry room on the sixth floor of the Cafe Royal, in central London. It obviously expected a big crowd; the cavernous space has a capacity of 450 and goes for a minimum of £4,000. The 30 or so shareholders who showed up, most of them elderly, looked lost among rows of empty seats. Sir Anthony, tall and slightly stooped, shuffled up to the blue-felt podium and took his seat between David Stevens, legal director, and Alan Wheatley, a non-executive director. He seemed slightly embarrassed in the spotlights' glare.

Sir Anthony's speech was brief. In his softspoken manner, he told shareholders that Granada, the victor, now controlled the majority of Forte's shares and could do what it wanted. "Granada has wished the meeting to be adjourned," he said. "A poll on the resolution would be a waste of time . . . I therefore propose that the meeting be adjourned, *sine die*."

And that was it. Some shareholders did not understand that they no longer had any influence over the company's affairs and left looking confused. However, it was not a total loss for everyone. Some did what they always do at shareholders' meetings and made a beeline for the coffee and biscuits. One old gentleman said: "I don't like Granada and it took me a long time on the Tube to get here, but it beats sitting at home all day long."

The High Court of Ireland

1996 No 8 Cos Ct 5

IN THE MATTER OF
LIFETIME ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF
WINDSOR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE ASSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1909,
THE INSURANCE ACT 1989 AND THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (LIFE ASSURANCE)
FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS, 1994.

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been presented to the High Court of Ireland seeking the sanction by the Court under section 13 of the Assurance Companies Act 1909 of a Scheme providing for the transfer to Windsor Life Assurance Company Limited of the rights powers obligations and liabilities of Lifetime Assurance Company Limited under the policies of life assurance written by it through its United Kingdom branch and for other ancillary relief.

Copies of the Petition, the Scheme and actuaries' reports thereon (including a report by an independent actuary) may be inspected at the offices of Lifetime, the Bank of Ireland and Windsor Life set out below during their usual business hours from 5 February 1996 until 23 February 1996.

The Petition is to be heard on 26 February 1996 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon at the Four Courts in the City of Dublin and any person who may be entitled to be heard may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel or solicitor.

Any person who intends to so appear, and any policyholder who objects to the Scheme but does not intend so to appear, should give not less than two clear days prior notice in writing of such intention or dissent, and the reasons therefor, to either of the solicitors named below.

Copies of a circular containing a statement of the nature and an abstract of the terms of the Scheme and the full text of the actuaries' reports referred to above will be furnished to any policyholder of either company requesting the same prior to the making of an order sanctioning the Scheme.

Dated the 2nd day of February 1996
McCann FitzGerald, 2 Harbourmaster Place, Custom House Dock, Dublin 1
Solicitors for the directors of Lifetime (Ref:PAC)
A&L Goodbody, 1 Earlsfort Centre, Hatch Street, Dublin 2
Solicitors for the directors of Windsor Life (Ref:CLP)

Offices at which documents may be inspected:

Lifetime:
- c/o Bank of Ireland, 34 High Street, Slough
- Donegall House, 7 Donegall Square North, Belfast
- Lifetime House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2
- 67/69, South Mall, Cork
- Eyre Square Centre, Eyre Square, Galway

Windsor Life:
- Windsor House, Telford Centre, Telford
- Dukes Court, Duke Street, Woking, Surrey
- Spencer House, St James' Place, London

Bank of Ireland:
- 20/22 Berkeley Square, London
- 4 St Philip's Place, Birmingham
- 35/41 John Dalton Street, Manchester
- 41 Castle Street, Liverpool
- 106 St Mary's Street, Cardiff
- Atlas Chambers, King Street, Leeds
- 65 St Vincent Street, Glasgow
- Registration Department, Callender Street, Belfast
- 11/15 Strand Road, Derry, Co Derry
- Stephen Street, Sligo, Co Sligo
- 31 Church Street, Athlone, Co Westmeath
- The Parade, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny
- 60 The Quay, Waterford, Co Waterford
- 125 O'Connell Street, Limerick

مكتب الاعلام

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Airtours finds a lift as Carnival comes to town

STOCK MARKET investors are hoping Airtours can bring a bit of sun into their lives soon by confirming that the US Carnival Corporation has taken a near 30 per cent stake.

The **Airtours** share price crept 6p higher to 436p on turnover of 534,000 shares in a market where shares are normally quoted in parcels of 10,000. Whispers circulating in the Square Mile suggest an announcement is imminent.

Last month Airtours said it was in talks with Carnival about potential co-operation agreements. This followed months of speculation that Carnival was about to launch a full-scale bid for the fast-growing Airtours, which is Britain's second biggest package tour operator.

It now seems Carnival is prepared to take a 29.9 per cent stake in Airtours as well as agreeing co-operation agreements. The speculators claim Carnival is prepared to pay up to 500p a share for its holding, valuing the entire group at £576 million.

There was a muted response to confirmation of the overnight cut in US interest rates. Brokers said much of it was already in the price. The reluctance of the Bundesbank to cut German interest rates also depressed sentiment.

In the event, an opening fall in the Dow Jones industrial average left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 6.5 points at 3,752.8 by the close. Total turnover reached 859 million, helped by further heavy dealing in **Hanson**, down 9p at 193¾p, where another 52 million shares changed hands.

Reed International dropped 24p to £10.12 despite a denial of a profits downgrading from the company's broker, ABN Amro Hoare Govett.

Persistent bid speculation lifted **Yorkshire Electricity** a further 17p to 736p, for a two-day gain of 52p. There is talk of a bid of 800p a share from West Coast, the US utility group, valuing Yorkshire at £1.2 billion.

The news that **Celltech** had abandoned further trials of CDP 840, its asthma treatment, after disappointing results from a series of Phase 2a studies sent the share price plunging 163p to 518p. The test had been carried out jointly with Merck, the US pharmaceutical group, its partner in the venture. The tests concluded the treatment did not reach the level of effectiveness required and has saddled Celltech with milestone payments and royalties of £31.5 million.

ERF tumbled after giving warning on full-year profits

The fall-out from Celltech hurt the other biotechnology shares with **Cantab Pharmaceuticals** down 35p at 470p, **Chiroscience** 15p at 284p, and **Cortecs International** 22p at 222p. **Grampian Holdings** was steady at 122p. Bell Lawrie White, the broker, says that with the help of restructuring the shares could reach 200p within the next 18 months.

Tesco fell 6½p to 292p as NatWest Securities joined the growing band of brokers who have begun downgrading their profit estimates. It has cut its forecast for the year to February 1996 by £9 million to £678 million and for 1997 from £763 million to £738 million.

Other brokers had begun cutting their forecasts in the new year, worried by the impact of the increased competition and the petrol price war. **J Sainsbury** was down 3½p at 391p.

ERF Holdings tumbled 60p to 182p after warning that a setback in second-half profits would leave the full year significantly short of market expectations. The market had been looking for a final of about £3.5 million. The group blamed a drop in new orders during December and early January. An effort was now being made to reduce debt and to find an alternative source of long-term funding.

Another profits warning left **Vibroplant**, the specialist plant hire group, nursing a fall of 11p at 86p. The group said conditions had worsened since first-half figures were announced in November, and this will be reflected in second-half figures.

Cutbacks in Government spending on the infrastructure and road building had hit the group's civil engineering activities.

Unitech was static at 480p with Electrowatt, its biggest shareholder, continuing to look for a buyer for its near 30 per cent stake.

Better than expected interim figures from **Misys**, the computer software group, sent its share price soaring 62p to 637p with pre-tax profits 71 per cent higher at £19.2 million.

The gold price staged a chart break-out as it climbed above $410 an ounce, with traders forecasting that the next stop for the precious metal could be $440. This also provided gold shares with renewed impetus.

Gains were seen in **American Gold**, 134p to £69.84, **Grootvlei**, 7p to 239p, **Randfontein** 19p to 582p, **Stilfontein** 8p to 90p, and **Vaal Reefs** 169p to £68.19.

The building sector attracted institutional support in the belief that interest rates are set to fall and house prices rise during the next six months. **Blue Circle** rose 11p to 355p, **Redland** 4p to 403p, and **Rugby** 3p to 115p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices opened a touch easier with the overnight cut in US interest rates apparently already taken into account by institutional investors. But early losses were quickly wiped out partly helped by a weaker than expected US purchasing managers' index and the latest jobless numbers.

The failure of the Germans to cut rates also dampened sentiment.

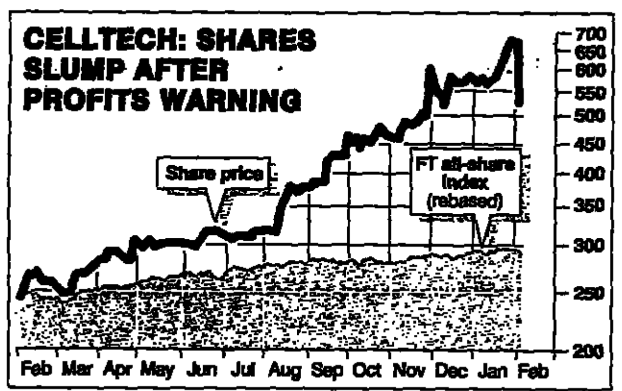
In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished five ticks better at £110$^{19}/_{32}$ as a total of 67,000 contracts were completed.

At the longer end of the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 rose £⅛ to £102$^{1}/_{16}$, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished a tick down at £104$^{13}/_{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares traded lower at midday but the overall market was showing resilience after five consecutive record closes. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 18.06 at 5,377.24.

WPP Group, the advertising agency headed by Martin Sorrell, put on another 4p to a high of 176p. Pay day for Mr Sorrell looks as if it could come a lot sooner than expected. Under the terms of the deal struck, he has three years to get the share price up to 300p before triggering an estimated £25 million bonus.

CELLTECH: SHARES SLUMP AFTER PROFITS WARNING



New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 5377.24 (-18.06)
S&P Composite .... 635.42 (-0.60)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 20935.12 (+122.38)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11352.80 (+3.10)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 503.74 (+0.36)

Sydney:
AO .... 2285.1 (-3.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 2459.26 (-10.88)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2452.25 (+3.10)

Brussels:
General .... 9030.91 (+31.66)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2024.09 (+0.91)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 741.70 (+9.30)

London:
FT 30 .... 2762.8 (-5.6)
FT 100 .... 3752.8 (-6.5)
FT-SE Mid 250 .... 4128.9 (+3.9)
FT-SE-A 350 .... 1865.8 (-2.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 .... 1570.74 (+11.20)
FT A All-Share .... 1840.21 (-1.75)
FT Non Financials .... 1941.6 (-1.6)
FT Fixed Interest .... 113.85 (-0.22)
FT Govt Secs .... 95.29 (-0.02)
Bargains 32607
SEAQ Volume 859.5m
USM (Datastrm) .... 200.82 (+0.03)
US$ .... 1.5127 (+0.0017)
German Mark .... 2.2597 (+0.0121)
Exchange Index .... 83.6 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.1916
£:SDR 1.0678
RPI .... 150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

Ballynatray Hldgs	6	...
Century Inns (120)	120	...
Dmatek	74	- 2
Jupiter Split Cap	85½	...
Jupiter Split Inc (100)	98½	...
Jupiter Split Uts	#59	...
MediaKey (60)	65	- 1
Nthn Petlm Wts	8	...
Revelation Plcc	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	53	...
SkyePharma B Wts	8	...
Viewinn	200	...

Berkeley Gp n/p (435)	86	+ 5
Eleco Holdings n/p (28)	½	...
Oxford Ml n/p (235)	104	...
Persona n/p (225)	44	...
Western Sel n/p (14)	¼	...

RISES:
Trade Indemnity .... 97p (+24p)
Radamec .... 96p (+13p)
Hampden Group .... 97p (+11p)
Misys .... 637p (+62p)
Moss Bros .... 683p (+48p)
Wintrust .... 295p (+20p)
Sherwood Comp .... 175p (+10p)
API .... 600p (+33p)
General Cable .... 189p (+10p)
Quadramatic .... 224p (+11p)
Boosey Hawkes .... 568p (+25p)
Eurodis Elec .... 303p (+11p)
Blue Circle .... 355p (+11p)
Oriflame Int .... 425p (+13p)
MAI .... 364p (+10½p)
Rank Org .... 472p (+13p)
Osborne & Little .... 420p (+10p)
Swire Pacific .... 586½p (+12p)
Farnell Elect .... 667p (+21p)

FALLS:
ERF .... 182p (-60p)
Celltech .... 518p (-163p)
Vibroplant .... 86p (-11p)
Cortecs .... 222p (-22p)
Cairn Energy .... 180p (-12p)
Cantab Pharms .... 470p (-35p)
Chiroscience .... 284p (-15p)
ADT .... 945p (-20p)

Closing Prices Page 27

Fighting on the forecourt

BIG oil has for years watched passively while the grocers stole their petrol retailing business and it was only a matter of time before they retaliated. The oil majors have only themselves to blame; decades of indifferent marketing has led the public to the correct conclusion that petrol is a commodity, differentiated only by price and the dinginess of the place where it is sold.

With new fascias and fancier forecourts, the majors are fighting back and the grocers should be worried at news that Esso is determined to match them on price. The margin on prices at the refinery gate is wafer thin so oil companies desperately need successful retail outlets to show a profit on their downstream activities.

There was a time when grocers claimed to earn little from petrol retailing — merely a draw for the stores, they said — but, for Tesco and Sainsbury, volumes are so large they now earn big bucks. Grocers have a competitive advantage: unlike the oil companies, they pay no rent, and NatWest Securities reckons that Tesco earns about £70 million from its 245 sites. Those profits are now under threat.

Tesco's margin on a 53p litre of unleaded petrol is probably about 3p, suggesting that a small price reduction could wipe out the grocer's profits. In response to Esso's threat, Tesco affirmed its commitment to remain competitive, but, significantly, the grocer has refrained so far from retaliating with a price cut. With sales growth slowing and grocery margins slimming, Tesco can ill afford losses on the forecourt. The grocer may therefore be tempted to give some volume back to big oil to preserve its profits.

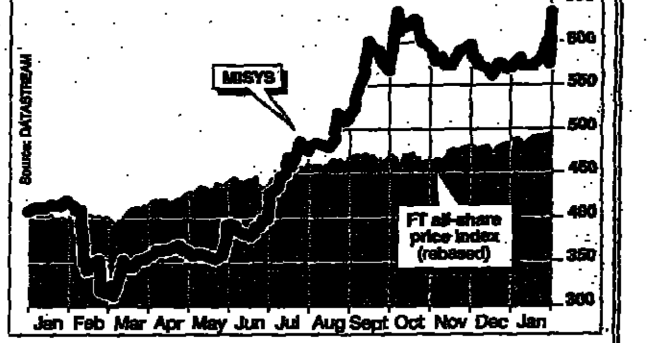
Misys

MANAGERS of the demerged Hanson could do worse than take a look at Misys, the computer software company, for lessons on how to run a more focused company. Kevin Lomax, himself a Hanson alumnus, has rapidly built a £500 million business, using Hanson-like acquisitive skills, but with a much tighter focus.

Misys concentrates on applications software for the banking and insurance industries. ACT, a £193 million purchase last year, has bedded in well, in spite of market concern at the time, and contributed most of the 71 per cent jump in profits at the half year. Mr Lomax talks bullishly about a strong second half that should see full-year profits of about £50 million, putting Misys on a manageable earnings multiple of 15.

Again Hanson-like, acquisitions are behind the Misys motor. Profits from existing businesses actually fell over the half year. Questions have been raised about the company's ability to grow without further corporate deals, and the market is hoping for a new acquisition within 12 months. The roller-coaster share performance suggests a degree of nervousness among investors and leaves the company little room for error. A purchase poorly received by the market would wipe out the gains of recent months, but a good buy could see Misys reach stratospheric heights. Not for the faint-hearted.

BANKING ON SOFTWARE



Trade Indemnity

THE profit record of Trade Indemnity tells a tale of a cyclical market, and the 33 per cent premium being offered by SFAC for the company suggests that the market is peaking. However, the largest French provider of credit reckons credit insurance is becoming increasingly international and therefore wants to join forces with Trade Indemnity.

Both companies are targeting multinationals which depend on their credit insurers for reliable and speedy information. That means investment in expensive information technology, favouring larger groups.

Big bad-debt provisions hurt Trade Indemnity during the recession, but analysts believe 1995's pre-tax profit, which is based on 1992 underwriting, should be about £20 million, compared with just £5 million in 1994.

SFAC's £177 milion offer looks generous compared with Trade Indemnity's net assets of just £56 million in 1994, but its NAV should continue to grow as the bad debts gradually fall out of the picture. Major institutional shareholders — with 53 per cent of the vote — have already accepted the SFAC offer, and the 33 per cent premium should be enough to keep the rest happy.

Even if Trade Indemnity has another two good years before the cycle turns, investors are safer selling today.

Regent Corp

REGENT Corporation revealed yesterday the immediate departure of Chris Johnson, its deputy chairman, and Carl Turpin, its chief executive.

The company also revealed that £1.4 million, a sum equal to half of the housebuilder's market capitalisation, has gone through write offs or provisions.

Shareholders will have few qualms about raising their voices. Last December, they contributed an equivalent sum in a placing and open offer — the emergency share issue was intended to stave off a liquidity crisis caused by poor sales.

None of this came to light at the time of the placing last December.

The £1.4 million apparently relates to the valuation of work in progress. Regent has changed its auditor from Stoy Hayward in London to Stoy Hayward in Rochdale. The Northern firm, a separate partnership but part of the national Stoy Hayward organisation, now has the pleasure of reviewing the work of its London brethren.

For shareholders, there is some hope. Regent is in talks with a private housebuilder which could lead to a reverse takeover. The recently departed directors joined the company via a similar route in 1993 so investors would be wise to remain sceptical.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	916-915	May	1026 BID
May	937-936	Jul	unq
Jul	959-958	Sep	–
Sep	979-978	Dec	–
Dec	995-994		
Mar	1017-1016	Volume:	5357

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2130-2129	Nov	1881-1880
May	1980-1979	Jan	1865-1850
Jul	1920-1919	Mar	1860-1830
Sep	1898-1894	Volume:	7096

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	312.9-12.0
Spot: 381.0		Dec	305.4-03.2
Mar	370.2-69.6	Mar	302.0-00.7
May	355.0-54.7	May	300.0-97.7
Aug	339.5-38.7	Volume:	3050

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 31

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	108.86	130.83	119.70
(+/-)	-2.17	+6.03	+0.34
Eng/Wales:	108.86	131.56	119.26
(+/-)	-2.17	+5.36	+0.87
(%)	-1.0	+15.0	+18.0
Scotland:	unq	129.19	122.16
(+/-)	–	+7.90	-2.62
(%)	–	+30.0	+18.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.95	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.70	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.25	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.85	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	17.45	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 168 (+1)	O: 170 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	166 (+3)	168 (+3)
Non EEC IH Feb	165 (+5)	166 (+4)
Non EEC IH Mar	163 (+8)	164 (+8)
3.5 Fuel Oil	97 (+2)	98 (+1)
Naphtha	169 (+2)	171 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Feb	159.75-60.00	May	147.25-47.75
Mar	153.75-54.00	Jun	146.00-46.50
Apr	149.75-50.00	Vol:	16192

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	16.65-16.67	Jun	15.87-15.88
Apr	16.20-16.21	Jul	15.81 SLR
May	15.99-16.00	Vol:	42109

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	123.05	Mar	114.70
May	125.80	May	116.40
Jul	127.90	Sep	108.90
Sep	113.20	Nov	110.95
Nov	114.45	Jan	113.50
Volume:	321	Volume:	106

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	179.0	176.8
May	unq	200.0
	Volume:	8

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Feb 105.75-106.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1435	1402	1402
Mar 96	1435	1392	1392
Apr 96	1435	1390	1393
Jul 96	1280	1275	1280
Vol: 434 lots		Open interest:	3880

Index 1494 -9

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2565.0-2567.0	3mth: 2515.0-2517.0	Vol: 1702400
Lead ($/tonne)	767.00-768.00	763.50-764.50	409550
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1061.0-1062.0	1079.0-1080.0	765925
Tin ($/tonne)	6243.0-6245.0	6280.0-6285.0	19805
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1574.0-1574.5	1599.0-1600.0	1432300
Nickel ($/tonne)	8490.0-8491.0	8590.0-8600.0	73578

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	500	30½	37	44	10	20½	23
(*513½)	550	8½	14½	21½	39	50½	52½
Argyll	300	34½	39½	42½	3	9	11½
(*327½)	330	14½	21	25	13½	23	25
ASDA	100	9	12	14	3	5	6½
(*105½)	110	4½	7½	9	8	10	11
Boots	600	41½	51½	59	8½	16½	22½
(*626½)	650	14	24½	33½	31½	42	47½
Br Airways	500	37	46½	52½	9	18	21
(*524)	550	11	20½	28	33½	43	46½
BP	500	38	48	52½	9½	11	14½
(*532)	550	10	21	27	28½	34	38½
Br Steel	160	17	21	21½	2½	7½	9½
(*172½)	180	6	10	11½	11½	18	20
C & W	420	43	51	59	6	14½	17
(*451½)	460	19	29	37	21½	31	34½
CU	600	30	41½	48	22	29	37½
(*615½)	650	7½	19½	27	55½	60½	67½
ICI	800	47	60½	70	19	26	37
(*835½)	850	18	35	44½	46	52	62½
Kingfishr	500	41	47½	56	10	17½	22½
(*529)	550	13	23	31½	36½	44	48½
Land Sec	600	33	40½	44	6½	18	21
(*630)	650	8	14	19	32½	47½	50
M & S	420	24½	30½	36	7½	14½	17½
(*432½)	460	6	11½	17	30½	37	39
Nat West	650	28	45	52	24	32½	40½
(*666)	700	9½	23½	31	57	62½	70
Sainsbury	390	17½	22½	29	11½	19	22
(*391)	420	5½	10½	16½	31	38	41
Shell	850	25	34	44½	25½	31	38
(*853½)	900	6	15	23	61½	65	69½
SmKl Bch	700	46½	62	72	11	19½	25½
(*731½)	750	19	34½	45	35	43	48½
Storehse	280	27½	34½	37	4	8½	11
(*299)	300	15	23	26	11	16½	19½
Trafalgar	30	6	8	9	3	4½	5½
(*33½)	35	3½	6	7	5½	7½	8½
Unilever	1300	66½	80½	100	17	27½	29½
(*1347½)	1350	32	49½	60	40	50½	51½
Zeneca	1250	60½	92½	109	40½	54½	62½
(*1275½)	1300	36½	67½	84	68	81½	88

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	21½	34½	44	3½	10	16
(*437)	460	2½	14½	24	25	30	36½
Ladbroke	160	10½	18	24½	3	11	15½
(*168½)	180	1½	10	16	14	23	26½
Utd Bisc	240	9½	15½	22	4	12½	16
(*244½)	260	2	7	14	16½	26	28½

February 1, 1996 Tot: 30887 Calls: 23856 Puts: 7031 FT-SE Calls: 2449 Puts: 2954
*Underlying security price.

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	460	35	43½	50	5	11½	14
(*485)	500	11½	20½	28½	22	29½	32½
Thames W.	500	54½	62	64½	2½	11	14
(*546½)	550	18½	28½	33½	17	32½	36

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	35	43½	52	2	15	25½
(*581½)	600	6½	18	28½	22½	42	52
BTR	300	30	32	34½	0	4	6
(*329)	330	5	10½	16	5	16½	19
Br Aero	850	48	69½	93	6	24½	35½
(*890)	900	16	42½	66½	24½	47½	59
Br Telcm	330	31	38½	44	0	2½	7½
(*359½)	360	7	18	23½	6	12	19½
Cadbury	500	44½	51	62	1	12½	17½
(*542)	550	8½	22	34½	15½	35	40½
Guinness	420	40½	46	50½	0	6	10
(*459)	460	8½	19	26	8	22½	28½
GEC	360	9	20½	26½	9½	13	20
(*363)	390	0½	7½	13	27	30	38
Hanson	191	7½	—	—	3	—	—
(*196)	211	1	—	—	17	—	—
LASMO	160	8½	13½	18½	2½	6½	8
(*168)	180	1	5½	10	14½	17½	19½
Lucas	180	19	23½	28	0½	4	6½
(*198)	200	5	11½	16½	6	12	15
Pilkngtn	191	8	16	20½	2½	6½	10½
(*197)	210	0½	7½	11½	14	16½	21
Prudential	420	14½	23½	34½	5	20	26
(*428)	460	1	8½	16½	32	46	50½
Redland	390	17½	28½	34	3½	16½	21½
(*403)	420	3½	13½	20	19½	34	39½
R-Royce	200	10½	16	21½	2	8	11
(*208½)	220	1	7½	12½	13	21	22
Tesco	280	15½	22	28	1½	8½	11½
(*292½)	300	4	11½	16	10	19	22
Vodafone	220	19	27	32	1	6½	11
(*237½)	240	5½	15	21	8	15	20
Williams	330	17	24½	27½	1	9	11½
(*345)	360	1½	8½	13	15½	26½	28

FT-SE INDEX (*3753)

	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900
Calls						
Feb	120	76	39	16½	5	1
Mar	138½	101½	70	43½	25½	13½
Apr	149½	117	86	63	43	27½
May	166½	135	104½	81	58½	42
Jun	—	152	—	98½	—	60
Puts						
Feb	4½	11½	25½	55½	99	140
Mar	21½	34½	53	77½	111½	153
Apr	41	57½	76½	103	133½	168½
May	54	72	92	117½	145½	180
Jun	—	87	—	130½	—	192

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	600	20	31½	43	24½	33½	41½
(*602½)	650	4½	14	24½	63	68	73½
Amstrad	180	14	22½	27	9	12	14½
(*189)	200	6	14	18	21	23½	25½
Barclays	750	51	61	73	9½	20	30
(*793)	800	17½	33½	47	33	44½	54
Blue Circ	330	30	35	41	3	12½	15½
(*355)	360	11	18½	25½	14	27	30
Br Gas	220	21½	24½	29	3	9½	11½
(*237½)	240	8½	13½	18½	9½	19	21½
Dixons	390	32	44½	50½	9½	12	17½
(*413½)	420	14½	27½	34	16½	25	31½
Forte	343	9	13½	16½	5	6	9
(*345)	373	0½	4	6½	28	28	29
Tarmac	110	12	15½	18	2	5½	7½
(*119)	120	6	10	13	6	10	12
Hillsdwn	160	19½	20½	22	1	4½	7
(*177½)	180	5½	8½	11	7	14	17
Lonrho	200	11½	18½	23	4½	9	10½
(*210)	220	2	9½	13½	15½	19½	21
Sears	90	6½	8½	9½	1½	3½	4½
(*94½)	100	1½	3½	5	6½	9½	10½
Thorn	1600	102½	147	168½	14½	36½	55½
(*1672½)	1700	43½	89	112½	55	78	100
Tomkins	260	19½	27	31	3	7½	11½
(*274½)	280	7½	15½	19½	11	15	21
Lloyds TSB	322	13	18½	—	14	20	—
(*323)	352	4	8½	—	37½	40½	—

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	900	65	80½	95½	15½	26½	37½
(*953½)	950	32	52	67	37	48½	60
HSBC	1100	49½	74	92½	47	62½	77
(*1108½)	1150	26½	53	71½	78	92½	106
Reuter	600	37½	53½	66½	16	25½	32
(*620½)	650	14	29½	42½	43½	52	58

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	27½	35½	45½	12	20	26½
(*380)	390	11	21½	31½	29	36½	42½

	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Pisons	260	5	9½	—	0½	0½	—
(*265)	280	0	0	—	15	18	—

	Series	Feb	May		Feb	May	
Eurotnl Gp	950	28½	42	—	0½	0	—
(*979)	1000	0½	0½	—	25	23	—

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	420	32	45½	49½	3½	12½	18
(*443½)	460	10	24½	29½	20½	32½	39½
Scot Pwr	360	28½	36	41	3	7	12½
(*381)	390	9	17½	23½	14½	19	26½

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 67776	Mar 96	3761.0	3771.0	3754.0	3769.0	8754
	Jun 96	3762.5	3762.5	3762.5	3771.5	40
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3307	Mar 96				4140.0	0
	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 391114	Mar 96	93.88	93.92	93.88	93.91	9667
	Jun 96	94.09	94.15	94.09	94.14	16470
	Sep 96	94.09	94.15	94.09	94.13	12777
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest 0	Mar 96				94.78	0
	N/A					
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1110484	Mar 96	96.77	96.83	96.76	96.81	47003
	Jun 96	96.84	96.91	96.84	96.90	45869
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 141587	Mar 96	110-10	110-23	110-02	110-19	67522
	Jun 96	109-29	109-29	109-29	109-28	10
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.62	119.65	119.49	119.51	3597
	Jun 96	118.10	118.11	118.02	118.04	660
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 248238	Mar 96	100.34	100.49	100.06	100.38	181316
	Jun 96	99.60	99.67	99.35	99.59	1719
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 24913	Mar 96	95.44	95.50	95.44	95.48	1361
	Jun 96	95.57	95.63	95.57	95.61	1579
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 60843	Mar 96	98.21	98.25	98.15	98.24	6806
	Jun 96	98.15	98.19	98.14	98.17	4010
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 66870	Mar 96	112.70	113.10	112.40	112.79	56077
	Jun 96	112.45	112.50	112.05	112.27	1476

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6 Week fixed: 6½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6$^{3}/_{32}$; 3 mth 6$^{1}/_{16}$. Sell: 2 mth 6$^{1}/_{32}$; 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6$^{5}/_{16}$-6$^{3}/_{16}$	6$^{7}/_{32}$-6$^{1}/_{32}$	6⅛-6	5$^{31}/_{32}$-5$^{29}/_{32}$	
Sterling Money Rates:	6$^{5}/_{16}$-6¼	6$^{9}/_{32}$-6$^{7}/_{32}$	6¼-6$^{3}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$
Interbank:	6$^{7}/_{16}$-6¼	6$^{9}/_{32}$-6$^{7}/_{32}$	6¼-6$^{3}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$

Overnight: open 6½, close 6 .

Local Authority Deps:	6½	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6$^{5}/_{16}$-6¼	6$^{9}/_{32}$-6$^{7}/_{32}$	6$^{3}/_{16}$-6⅛	6$^{1}/_{16}$-6$^{1}/_{32}$	6⅛-6
Dollar CDs:	5.29	n/a	5.26	5.09	5.01
Building Society CDs:	6$^{5}/_{16}$-6¼	6$^{7}/_{32}$-6$^{7}/_{32}$	6¼-6$^{3}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-4⅞	5⅜-5¼	5$^{7}/_{16}$-5$^{5}/_{16}$	5$^{3}/_{32}$-4$^{31}/_{32}$	5-4
Deutschemark:	3$^{7}/_{16}$-3$^{5}/_{16}$	3$^{7}/_{16}$-3$^{5}/_{16}$	3$^{7}/_{16}$-3$^{5}/_{16}$	3⅜-3¼	4-3
French Franc:	4$^{7}/_{16}$-4$^{5}/_{16}$	4$^{7}/_{16}$-4$^{5}/_{16}$	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	5-4
Swiss Franc:	1$^{11}/_{16}$-1$^{9}/_{16}$	1¾-1⅝	1$^{13}/_{16}$-$^{11}/_{16}$	1$^{13}/_{16}$-$^{11}/_{16}$	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	$^{11}/_{16}$-$^{9}/_{16}$	n/a

Bullion: Open $407.30-407.60 Close: $410.10-410.60 High: $410.20-410.70
Low: $405.80-406.30 AM: $406.60 PM: $409.10

Krugerrand: $409.50-411.50 (£270.00-272.00)

Platinum: $423.50 (£279.65) Silver: $5.75 (£3.785) Palladium: $130.00 (£85.90)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for February 1	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5226-2.5336	2.5304-2.5336	⅝-½pr	2-1¾pr
Brussels	46.29-46.51	46.41-46.51	12-9pr	35-30pr
Copenhagen	8.7110-8.7480	8.7260-8.7480	1½-1pr	4¼-3½pr
Dublin	0.9651-0.9683	0.9657-0.9683	11-8pr	27-22pr
Frankfurt	2.2528-2.2601	2.2570-2.2601	⅝-½pr	1¾-1½pr
Lisbon	233.31-234.18	233.53-234.15	20-47ds	92-138ds
Madrid	189.67-190.83	189.97-190.26	37-47ds	120-137ds
Milan	2390.6-2403.2	2394.0-2398.0	6-7ds	19-21ds
Montreal	2.0785-2.0858	2.0785-2.0814	0.20-0.12pr	0.39-0.28pr
New York	1.5122-1.5154	1.5134-1.5144	0.12-0.10pr	0.34-0.31pr
Oslo	9.8390-9.8740	9.8540-9.8690	1⅛-¾pr	2¾-1¾pr
Paris	7.7300-7.7580	7.7440-7.7580	1½-1¼pr	3¾-3¼pr
Stockholm	10.498-10.540	10.498-10.521	⅛-⅜ds	⅛-⅜ds
Tokyo	161.81-162.39	161.94-162.21	⅞-⅝pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Vienna	15.834-15.922	15.895-15.922	⅞-⅝pr	1½-1pr
Zurich	1.8355-1.8473	1.8445-1.8473	⅞-⅝pr	2⅜-2pr

Source: Extel   Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

Australia	1.3404-1.3414
Austria	10.45-10.46
Belgium (Com)	30.55-30.57
Canada	1.3733-1.3738
Denmark	5.7508-5.7540
France	5.1035-5.1055
Germany	1.4865-1.4875
Hong Kong	7.7312-7.7322
Ireland	1.5668-1.5688
Italy	1579.00-1580.00
Japan	106.87-106.92
Malaysia	2.5552-2.5582
Netherlands	1.6654-1.6659
Norway	6.4968-6.5043
Portugal	154.12-154.22
Singapore	1.4188-1.4198
Spain	125.25-125.33
Sweden	6.9310-6.9410
Switzerland	1.2114-1.2119

Argentina peso*	1.5147-1.5173
Australia dollar	2.0283-2.0303
Bahrain dinar	0.5645-0.5765
Brazil real*	1.4812-1.4853
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7050-0.7150
Finland markka	6.8225-6.9385
Greece drachma	368.25-375.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.7104-11.7158
India rupee	54.83-55.79
Indonesia rupiah	3433.00-3501.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4485-0.4585
Malaysia ringgit	3.8704-3.8732
New Zealand dollar	2.2458-2.2486
Pakistan rupee	51.84 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4475-5.5715
Singapore dollar	2.1476-2.1501
S Africa rand (com)	5.4750-5.5770
U A E dirham	5.4950-5.6190

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

3I	134	Land Secs	1,600
ASDA Gp	13,000	Legal & Gn	1,600
Abbey Ntl	3,300	Lloyds TSB	7,000
Allied Dom	3,600	Marks Spr	4,600
Argos	226	NatWst Bk	2,700
Argyll Gp	1,600	Nat Grid	12,000
AB Foods	790	Nat Power	2,600
BAA	2,300	P & O	2,400
BAT Inds	4,600	Pearson	1,600
BOC	316	Pilkington	6,400
BP	4,000	PowerGen	1,800
BSkyB	6,500	Prudential	2,500
BTR	10,000	REXAM	1,100
BT	6,600	RMC	315
Bk of Scot	2,400	RTZ	2,500
Barclays	2,200	Rank Org	2,000
Bass	3,700	Reckitt Col	864
Blue Circle	4,300	Redland	4,700
Boots	2,300	Reed Intl	1,400
BAe	1,300	Rentokil	1,300
BA	2,500	Reuters	2,000
Brit Gas	3,200	Rolls Royce	15,000
Brit Steel	9,800	Royal Ins	1,400
Burmah Cstl	470	Ryl Bk Scot	2,300
Burton	4,600	Sainsbury	4,300
Cable Wire	5,100	Schroders	98
Cadbury	661	Scot & New	8,400
Carlton Cms	1,100	Scot Power	2,800
Cm Union	3,500	Svrn Trent	2,400
Cookson	2,000	Shell Trans	3,600
Courtaulds	1,900	Siebe	423
Dixons	1,700	SmKl Bch	3,600
Enterpr Oil	2,300	Smith Nph	1,700
For & Col IT	632	Smiths Inds	687
GKN	536	Sthern Elec	703
GRE	2,900	Std Chartd	2,000
GUS	2,300	Sun Allnce	3,100
Gen Acc	1,200	TI Gp	398
Gen Elec	5,800	Tate & Lyle	1,600
Glaxo Well	5,800	Tesco	4,600
Granada	1,200	Thames W	1,100
Grand Met	4,500	Thrn EMI	458
Greenalls	921	Tomkins	3,900
Guinness	4,300	Unilever	1,200
HSBC	3,500	United Utils	1,400
Hanson	52,000	Vodafone	4,900
ICI	2,100	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	3,200	Wlms Hld	2,600
LASMO	6,000	Wolseley	1,600
Ladbroke	1,500	Zeneca	1,200

	Feb 1 midday	Jan 31 close
AMP Inc	38½	39
AMR Corp	77½	76
AT & T	66½	66½
Abbott Labs	42½	42½
Advanced Micro	20½	19½
Aetna Life	74	74½
Ahmanson (HF)	23½	24
Air Prod & Chem	53½	53½
AirTouch Comm	29½	28½
Alberto-Culver B	36½	36
Albertson's	35½	34½
Alcan Alumnm	31½	31½
Alco Standard	39	39½
Allied Signal	50½	49½
Alum Co of Am	54½	55½
Amax Gold Inc	9½	8½
Amerada Hess	55½	55½
Amer Brands	45½	45½
Amer El Power	44½	44½
Amer Express	45½	46
Amer Genl Corp	37½	37½
Amer Home Pr	102½	102
Amer Intl	95½	96½
Amer Stores	25½	26
Amer Standard	29½	29½
Ameritech	60½	60½
Amoco	70½	70½
Anheuser-Busch	68½	69½
Apple Computer	27½	27½
Archer Daniels	19	19
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	59½	58½
Asarco	32½	31½
Ashland Oil	36½	36½
Atl Richfield	114	113½
Auto Data Prn	39½	39½
Avery Dennison	53½	53½
Avon Products	78	79
Baker Hughes	25½	25½
Baltim Gas & El	28½	28½
Banc One	37½	37½
BankAmerica	67	67½
Bank of NY	50½	51½
Bankers Tr NY	64½	64½
Barnett Banks	58½	58½
Bausch & Lomb	39½	38½
Baxter Intl	45	45½
Bectn Dickson	85	86½
Bell Atlantic	68½	68½
Bell Industries	22½	22½
BellSouth	42½	42½
Black & Decker	33½	33½
Block (H&R)	37½	36½
Boeing	77½	77½
Boise Cascade	38½	39½
Bristol Myrs Sq	87½	88½
Browning Ferris	29½	29½
Brunswick	22½	22½
Burlington Nthn	81	81½
CNA Financial	112½	114½
CPC Intl	72½	72½
CSX	45½	46½
Campbell Soup	62½	63½
Can Pacific	19½	19½
Cptl Cities ABC	127½	128½
Carolina Pwr	36½	37
Caterpillar	63½	64½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	43½	44½
Chase Manhat	68½	69
Chemical Bk	66½	67
Chevron Corp	52½	51½
Chrysler	58	57½
Chubb Corp	101	103½
Cigna Corp	117½	118½
Citicorp	73½	73½
Clorox	82½	82½
Coastal Corp	38½	37½
Coca Cola	75½	75½
Colgate-Palmolive	73½	74
Columbia Gas	43½	43½
ColumbiaHCA	55½	55½
Compaq Comp	47½	47½
Comp Ass Int	69	68½
Conagra	45½	45½
Conrail	70½	70½
Cons Edison	33½	33½
Cons Nat Gas	44½	45
Cooper Inds	37½	37½
Corestates	40	40
Corning Inc	31	31½
Crown Cork	40½	41½
Dana Corp	33½	32½
Dayton Hudson	74	74½
Deere	37½	37½
Delta Air Lines	70½	68½
Deluxe Corp	29½	29½
Digital Equip	73½	72½
Dillard Dept St	28½	29
Disney (Walt)	63½	64½
Dominion Res	42½	42½
Donelley (RR)	36	35½
Dover Corp	45	45½
Dow Chemical	73½	74½
Dow Jones	39½	38½
Dresser	25½	24
Duke Power	49½	49½
Dun & Bradstreet	65	65
Du Pont	76½	76½
Eastman Chem	66½	66½

	Feb 1 midday	Jan 31 close
Eastman Kodak	73½	73½
Eaton Corp	57½	58
Emerson Elec	83	83½
Engelhard Corp	24½	23½
Enron Corp	37½	37
Entergy	29½	29½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	80½	80½
FMC Corp	73	72½
FPL Group	46½	46½
Federal Express	76½	76½
Fed Nat Mtge	33½	34½
First Interstate	155	154½
Frst Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Fnl Grp	39½	40
Fluor Corp	66½	67
Ford Motor	30	29½
GTE Corp	45½	46
Gannett	63½	63½
Gap Inc Del	46½	47½
Gen Dynamics	58½	58½
Gen Electric	76½	76½
Gen Mills	56½	57½
Gen Motors	53½	52½
Gen Reinsurance	150½	151
Gen Signal	34½	33½
Genuine Parts	43½	44½
Georgia Pac	72½	73½
Gillette	54	53½
Glaxo Welc ADR	28½	28½
Goodrich (BF)	72½	73½
Goodyear Tire	47½	47½
Grace (WR)	62½	61½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23½	23½
Great Wstn Fin	23½	24
Halliburton	52	51½
Harcourt General	38½	39
Heinz (HJ)	34½	34½
Hercules	56½	55½
Hershey Foods	69½	70½
Hewlett Packard	86	84½
Hilton Hotels	76	77½
Home Depot	45½	46
Homestake Mng	19½	18½
Honeywell	51½	50½
Household Intl	64½	64½
Houston Inds	24	24
Humana	28½	27½
ITT Corp	54½	55½
Illinois Tool	61½	61½
Illinova	30	29½
INCO	35	35
Ingersoll Rand	39½	40½
Inland Steel	28½	28½
Intel Corp	55½	55½
IBM	109½	108½
Intl Flav & Fr	49½	50½
Intl Paper	40½	40½
James River Va	25½	26½
Johnsn & Jhnsn	98½	98
Kellogg	76½	76½
Kerr-McGee	64½	63½
Kimberly-Clark	79½	80½
Kmart	6½	5½
Knight-Ridder	65½	66½
Lilly (Eli)	57½	57½
Limited Inc	16½	16½
Lincoln Nat	52	52½
Litton	49½	49½
Liz Claiborne	28½	27½
Lockheed Martin	74½	75½
Louisiana Pac	25½	25½
MCI Comms	28½	28½
Marriott Int	43½	42½
Marsh & McLen	90½	91
Masco Corp	29½	29½
May Dept St	44½	44½
Maytag Corp	20	19½
McDonalds	49½	50½
McDonnell D	89½	89
McGraw Hill	89½	89
Mead Corp	55	55½
Medtronic	58½	57½
Mellon Bk	52½	53
Melville Corp	28½	28½
Merck Inc	69½	70½
Merrill Lynch	57½	56½
Microsoft	93½	92½
Minnesota Mine	64½	64½
Mobil Corp	111	110½
Monsanto	131½	130½
Morgan (JP)	81½	81½
Motorola Inc	55½	53½
Natl Semi	17½	17½
Natl Service Ind	34½	34½
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	28½	29
Newmont Mng	57½	55½
Niag Mohawk	9	9½
Nike B	66½	69½
NL Industries	14½	14½
Noram Energy	8½	8½
Nordstrom	39	39½
Norfolk Sthrn	77½	78½
Nthn State Pwr	51½	51½
Norwest Corp	34	34½
Nynex Corp	53½	53½
Occidental Pet	21½	21½
Ohio Edison	23½	23½
Oracle	43½	43½

	Feb 1 midday	Jan 31 close
Oryx Energy Co	13	13½
Owens Corning	45½	45½
PHH Corp	51½	51½
PPG Industries	46½	46½
PNC Bank	29½	30
PP&L Res	25½	25½
Paccar Inc	47½	45½
Pacificorp	21	21½
Pac Enterprises	27½	27½
Pac Gas & Elect	27½	27½
Pac Telesis	29½	29½
Pall Corp	27	27
Panhandle East	28½	28½
Parker Hannifin	33½	34½
Peco Energy	30½	30½
Penney (JC)	48½	49
Pennzoil	40½	40½
Pepsico	59½	59½
Pfizer	68½	68½
Pharm & Upjhn	40½	41½
Phelps Dodge	64	63
Philip Morris	90½	90
Phillips Pet	33½	32½
Pitney Bowes	45½	45½
Polaroid	45	44½
PriceCostco	15½	15½
Procter & Gmbl	83½	84
Providian	43½	43½
Pub Serv E & G	31½	31½
Quaker Oats	34½	34½
Ralston Purina	63½	64½
Raychem Corp	66½	68½
Raytheon	48½	49½
Reebok Intl	26½	27
Reynolds Metals	53½	53½
Rockwell Intl	58½	58½
Rohm & Haas	69½	69½
Royal Dutch	139½	139
Rubbermaid	28	28½
SBC Comms	56½	55½
Safeco Corp	35½	35½
St Paul's Cos	57½	57
Salomon Inc	38	38½
Sara Lee Corp	33½	33½
[illegible]	18½	18½
Schering Plough	54½	54½
Schlumberger	70½	70½
Seagram	36½	36½
Sears Roebuck	41½	41½
Shell Trans	78½	78½
Sherwin Wilms	42½	42½
Skyline Corp	20½	20½
Snap-On-Tools	44½	43½
Southern Co	24½	25½
Sprint Corp	43½	43½
Stanley Works	52½	51½
Sun Company	27½	27½
Sun Microsys	46½	46
Suntrust	69½	69½
Supervalu	30½	31
Sysco Corp	31½	32
TRW Inc	84½	84½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	9½	9½
Tandy Corp	38	38½
Teledyne	25½	25
Temple Inland	43½	43½
Tenneco	51½	51½
Texaco	81½	80½
Texas Inst	47½	46½
Texas Utilities	41	40½
Textron	77½	78½
Time Warner	41½	42½
Times-Mirror A	31½	31
Timken	43	42½
Torchmark	47½	47½
Toys R Us	23½	22½
Transamerica	79½	76½
Travelers	65½	65½
Tribune	63½	62½
Tyco Labs	35½	35½
UST Inc	33½	33½
UAL	161½	161
US Inds	17½	18
USX Marathon	19	18½
Unicom	33½	33½
Unilever NV	144½	144½
Union Camp	50½	51½
Union Carbide	42½	42½
Union Pacific	66	66½
Unisys Corp	7½	7½
USAIR Group	15	15
USF&G Corp	16	16
US Life	32½	32½
United Tech	103½	102½
Unocal Corp	30½	29½
VF Corp	50½	50½
WMX Tech	29½	29½
Wal-Mart Stores	20½	20½
Warner-Lambert	93½	93½
Wells Fargo	235	234½
Westinghouse El	20½	20½
Weyerhaeuser	45½	46½
Whirlpool	55½	54½
Whitman	22½	22½
Winn Dixie	35½	35½
Woolworth	11	11½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58½	59½
Xerox	125½	123½
Yellow Corp	11½	12

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

◆

Crash worries Wall Street

SORRY to shock you while the Dow Jones *hits* fresh highs, but there been a nasty crash affecting Wall Street.

"Charging Bull", the 7,000lb 16-foot statue by Arturo DiModica, so loved of market folk and which, until 1989, was sited in front of the New York Stock Exchange, has been cruelly struck by a station wagon and damaged.

Traders, fearing portents, are aghast that the statue, relocated on Broadway, was knocked 7½ft south of its moorings and *that the bull's front fetlock* has been put out of joint.

A New York policeman noted that had "Charging Bull" been pushed just a *few more inches*, "a steel stanchion would have downsized the animal's manhood".

The driver, who was *unhurt but whose car* bumper was demolished, said his brakes failed.

Flowers have been laid at the plinth to wish the bull, *and the market*, better.

"Might be asthma, but I think we've caught a cold"

Parc life blur

THE night with analysts held by Scottish & Newcastle at its CenterParcs village in Wiltshire (yesterday's *City Diary*) turned out to be some fun after all. A mystery voice tells me it was so good that after a 4am finish, 13 missed their morning train back to *London, ten missed* their lunchtime train, and one senior S&N man was thought to have been face down in a ditch. My *(sober) contact* assures me "I did learn a lot about the group". The shares rose 10p to 644p.

Bloomin' error

WHEN your bank sends flowers, you know their mistake is serious. A *trainee at a City law firm* was somewhat non-plussed to receive a rather down-market bunch of cream and peach carnations from her *bank manager at* Barclays. "Quite revolting," was her response. Even worse, the skinny bouquet arrived at work for all to see. The card *read:* "We apologise for the standing order error." Some error! She couldn't get access to her funds for three weeks, which is 20 *days* longer than the flowers are likely to last.

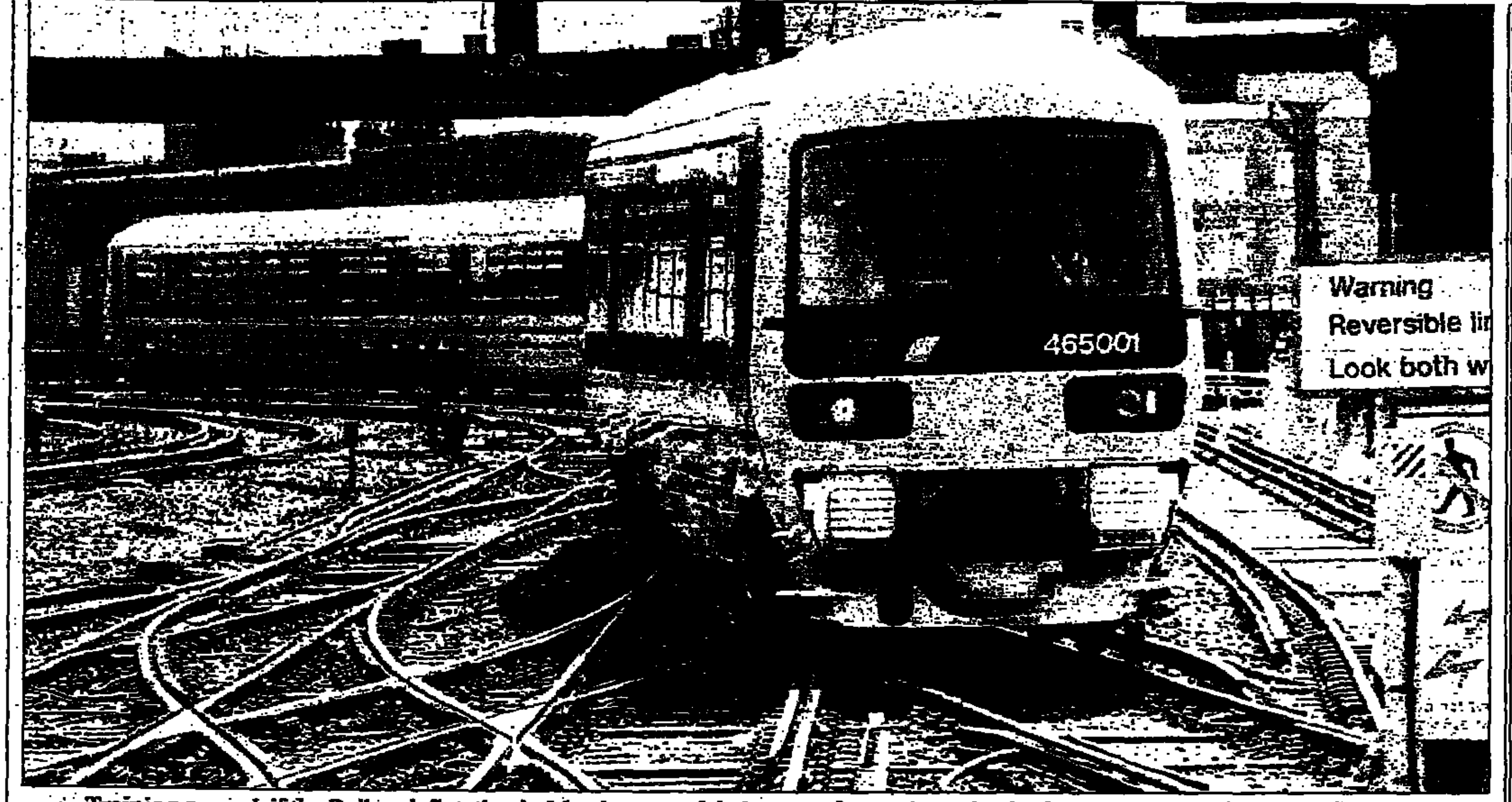
In the swim

THE Lord Mayor of London, a keen swimmer, is calling on as many as possible to take part in a City Dip. The Corporation of *London's annual charity* swim takes place at the Golden Lane recreation centre, Golden Lane, on March 1 and 2, in aid of the St John Ambulance Brigade. City teams are welcome. *Last year*, the event raised £7,000.

Knockdown?

AFTER British Coal's lengthy search for a buyer *for CINMan, its pension* fund management business, hit a brick wall yesterday, the pressure will be on to find a quick fix. The company, which has steadily been selling *all assets since* privatisation, will be without a home from July — the date of a demolition order on its headquarters.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Training ground: if the Railtrack flotation in May is successful, the scope for putting privatisation into reverse will largely disappear

A method is emerging from 'madness' of the rail gamble

As the first privately owned trains begin operating, **Jonathan Prynn** sees cause for cautious optimism

This afternoon Chris *Kinchin-Smith* will attend the last board meeting of LTS Rail, the British Rail subsidiary that runs commuter trains between *London's* Fenchurch Street, Southend and Tilbury.

Later in the day, John Welsby, the BR chairman, will give a short talk at Southend, *wishing him* and his colleagues the best of luck in the brave new world of the privatised railways.

When the 0535 pulls out of *Shoeburyness* bound for London in the pre-dawn of Sunday morning it will be the first privately operated scheduled train on the line for more than 48 years.

It will miss the record books by 20 minutes as the 5.10 from Twickenham, operated by South West Trains, qualifies as the first privatised train in the country. Nevertheless, it will be an emotional moment for Mr Kinchin-Smith, who has headed LTS through the most turbulent three years on the railways for half a century.

Mr Kinchin-Smith is fizzing with ideas about how to transform the service once known as the "misery line" — radio communication between every driver and the control centre at Upminster, credit-card ticket machines, even a satellite "global positioning system" so that every train on the line can be located to the centimetre.

Autonomy gives him and his team freedom to experiment, while his personal financial commitment to the buyout means that far more than his next promotion is on the line if the franchise does not perform. In his hands and those of the other first franchise heads rests the future of the Government's boldest privatisation.

Privatisation remains a huge political gamble. Its complexity makes it a mystery to all but a handful of officials, politicians and City folk, and a sitting duck for its opponents. Few, if any, benefits have yet flowed through to the travelling public, though they are all too well aware of the absurdities. The railway industry subsidy has doubled. It could still prove the disastrously wrong sort of privatisation.

And yet, and yet ... As the details of the new structure become clearer, the fiendish method in the madness is beginning to emerge. Impressive *local managers, who for* decades have laboured under the stifling corporatism of a state monopoly, are suddenly finding themselves liberated.

Investment plans that could see a transformation of chronically underfunded lines like the London Tilbury and Southend over the next decade, have been drawn up and costed. Proper financial accountability is being established for the first time since nationalisation. Performance contracts set up to provide incentives for the train operators, Railtrack and the maintenance firms should deliver improvements in service.

The detailed thinking that has gone into the new structure is astonishing. For example, every time a passenger train anywhere in the country *falls three minutes* behind *its* scheduled timetable, a mini-inquiry is automatically triggered and "blame" for the delay attributed to the responsible party.

If the operator is found guilty, passengers benefit through lower ticket prices. If Railtrack is to blame, the operators received a *rebate on* access charges. It sounds like a lawyers' paradise, but the system's architects are adamant it will work. Perhaps.

This year is the crunch. Although 32 former BR companies have already been sold off, raising more than £2 billion, it is the performance of the train operators and Railtrack that will determine whether privatisation is judged a success or failure.

The three franchises being launched *this* weekend, LTS Rail, Great Western (both awarded to management teams) and South West Trains (won by Stagecoach), will be followed by *four more in June*, another two in September and at least two more later in the autumn. If ScotRail can resolve its problems with the *Strathclyde Passenger Transport* Authority, a total of 12 out of the 25 franchises, representing perhaps two-thirds of passenger revenue, will have been *handed over to private operators* by the year end.

Railtrack is due to go to the stock market in May. For all Labour's attempts to intimidate the City and scupper the sale, the chances are that it will get under way. To pull the plug at this stage would be a political disaster of unthinkable magnitude. Once the flotation is a fact Labour's game is up. Railtrack is the keystone of privatisation and once in the hands of millions of private investors, the *sell-off* will become a legal and financial nightmare to dismantle.

A range of policy ideas is still being considered by Clare Short, the *Shadow* Transport Secretary, although the range of options is rapidly narrowing. John Prescott, deputy party leader, who has headed a committee *looking* at railway policy, is said to favour taking back Railtrack into public ownership in reverse salami style — slice by slice — in return for subsidy.

The proposal begs questions. How would the Government buy back the shares? In the market, forcing up their value *like a hostile takeover* bidder? By making Railtrack issue new stock, diluting the value of small shareholders, including thousands of employees? *And why would* the Government want to pay twice, once in subsidy and again for the equity?

A similar Labour plan to *take over the National Grid*, thereby restoring government "control" to the electricity industry, was floated and eventually ditched before the 1992 election. *Labour will argue* that Railtrack is different because it will be the only subsidised private utility.

True, but that does not make reversing the sale any easier.

The idea also presupposes that the subsidy contracts carefully negotiated by franchise-bidders and Roger Salmon, *the* franchise director, can be easily scrapped so that the subsidy is directed at Railtrack. Operators would certainly welcome the reduction *in track charges that* would accompany the confiscation of subsidy, but in many cases would be left worse off.

The role of John Swift, the *rail regulator, in the Labour* railway system is also unclear. Although Labour would undoubtedly want to use his powers to restore public control over *the industry*, the Railways Act gives him a degree of legal autonomy that could frustrate their plans.

Hanging over all the various fledgling schemes is the big question? Will Tony Blair wear it? Without the say-so of the party leader, the proposals remain pipe-dreams. Although Mr Blair has steadfastly stuck to his "publicly owned, publicly accountable" script to keep the RMT and Aslef off his back, it is difficult to see a case for new *Labour* reversing the sell-off.

If it succeeds, privatisation will deliver higher levels of investment, private/public-sector partnership, "stakeholder" employee share ownership and improved public services after 50 years of underperformance — all Labour aims. The case for yet another round of upheaval in an industry that has suffered permanent revolution for the past decade would be unsustainable.

Prescott favours return to public ownership

Howard's way may lead to less regulation

Both sides in Australia's election have similar policies, says **Rachel Bridge**

The announcement of the Australian Federal election during the Australia Day long weekend *did not please many. It did*, however, delight Australia's business community, not only ending months of uncertainty but also coming amid a growing likelihood that the election — set for March 2 — could spell a change of government for the first time in 13 years.

With the latest polls showing a clear lead for John Howard, leader of the opposition Liberal Party, political experts agree that Paul *Keating has a lot of catching* up to do over the next four weeks if he is to retain power. The perception in the markets is that a win for the *coalition led by the Liberals* would lead to a freer business environment combined with a more conservative fiscal approach.

Peter Munckton, an economist at Bankers Trust in Sydney, explains: "A coalition government is seen as being much more stock market friendly. For a start, they are going to be tough on inflation, which is positive. They are also more likely to run a tighter fiscal *budget* than a Labor government, a second positive. Together with the *fact that they* are *likely to* encourage greater deregulation in the labour market by reducing union influence, it all adds up to greater business confidence."

Crucially for potential foreign investors, Mr Howard has also indicated that he intends to make the existing *rules* on foreign investment more transparent, and analysts believe that he is likely to show greater leniency towards takeovers and mergers too. In addition, Mr Howard has pledged to sell off a third of Telstra, Australia's national phone company, something which Mr Keating has so far refused to contemplate.

The Australian stock market has not been slow to show its enthusiasm for a coalition government, rising 34.6 points in three days to a two-year high of 2288.5. It fell three points yesterday in profit taking.

Top of the activity *list* have been shares in media stocks, which have soared in the belief that a coalition government would relax the present cross-media ownership rules — paving the way in particular for Kerry Packer, who controls the Nine Network television company, to bid for Fairfax, Australia's oldest newspaper group, without having to give up his TV holdings. Mr Packer, whose Publishing and Broadcasting Group has a 17 *per cent* stake in Fairfax, has made no secret of his desire to take control of the newspaper publisher, clashing publicly with Mr Keating a year ago over the rules that have so far prevented him from doing *so*.

The banking sector, too, has come under the spotlight, amid speculation that a coalition government *might look more favourably* at a merger of two of the country's leading banks and the takeover of some smaller ones. Shares in ANZ and Westpac, seen as the most suspectible targets, have soared, while shares in National Australia *Bank*, which owns Yorkshire Bank and Clydesdale Bank in Britain, have risen in the belief that it could be a possible predator.

> There is talk about a coalition being better *for business*

Detractors however argue that little of substance *will* change even if Mr Howard does win power on March 2, *pointing out that the policies* he has unveiled so far show a remarkable similarity to those of the incumbent Government. Indeed, some analysts argue that a coalition win could result in greater industrial unrest because they will be less able to get the co-operation of Australia's powerful unions than Labor.

Akis Harabopoulos, chief economist at GIO Australia, said: "There's a lot of similarities between the two. They both want to see the underlying inflation rate between 2 and 3 per cent, they both want to see the budget deficit improved and they both want to see Australia becoming more productive."

One Sydney economist agrees, saying: "There is much talk about a coalition government being better for business, being more stock market friendly. But, in terms of the broader economic policies and the economic outcomes, both sides have very similar views. It's a bit like Tweedledum and Tweedledee."

Companies will only grow if treated as customers by DTI

From R J Jackson

Sir, In today's fiercely contested markets, the constant drive to improve competitiveness is engraved *in our minds*. Having survived a very severe recession, an achievement in itself, as manufacturers we well understand the need to be responsive *to market conditions* and to be both efficient and flexible in our operating methods.

Whilst benchmarking may provide useful targets for some small manufacturers to *aim at, the vast majority of us* will struggle to find the resources and expertise to gain promotion to the premier league of "world class". This is where the DTI and their agents, the training and enterprise councils and Business Links have such a vital role to play. If it is truly the DTI's mission to help us to gain promotion, then we must be treated as their customers and *they should start* benchmarking their own performance. The results will disappoint them as they fail to reach much of their market and many of *the companies* they do contact find their programmes are prescriptive or inappropriate and immersed in bureaucracy.

The DTI would *do well* to act on the hard lessons we have learnt. So we trust that in the third White Paper announced by Heseltine, the DTI will be more responsive to manufacturers' needs by introducing both practical and flexible measures which will encourage more of us to achieve promotion to "world class".

Yours faithfully,
R.J. JACKSON,
Director,
South London Manufacturers
Forum;
Managing director,
H W Wallace,
172 St James's Road,
Croydon.

Decision over work permits good for UK

From Mr Mark Pearson

Sir, The independent Pilots Association (IPA) is both delighted and relieved by the decision of the Department for Education and Employment to finally *reject* British Airways' application for work permits for USAir pilots.

Had the application been approved, such a decision would have made a mockery of the immigration laws in this country, with the many hundreds of qualified British pilots currently unemployed. More importantly, it would have set a precedent with far reaching consequences for the future that would have been open to exploitation by unscrupulous organisations, to the detriment not only of the aviation sector but the whole infrastructure of British commerce and *industry*.

Sadly, the IPA was a lone voice in contesting BA's attempts to persuade the DEE otherwise. Had the British Airline Pilots Association adhered to its own members' resolutions, rather than aiding and abetting BA, then this ill-conceived scheme would have been rejected from the beginning, with *the consequences* that 30 additional British pilots could have been flying on line for some considerable time now.

Yours faithfully,
MARK PEARSON,
Director,
Independent Pilots
Association,
Old Rectory,
The Priory,
Haywards *Heath*,
West Sussex.

Bank rates are root of decline

From Mr Richard Whatmoor

Sir, I noted with astonishment Lloyds Bank interest rates notification for business customers on January 3. From this it would appear that the "thoroughbred bank" is lending to small businesses at 13.2 per cent while borrowing from depositors at about 3.5 per cent. Do we have to look any further for the root causes of our traumatic economic decline over the recent past, with the exception, of course, of the excellent concurrent performance of bank profits?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WHATMOOR,
43 Lancaster Rd,
London W1.

Gloomy over growth

From Mr Derek Bloom

Sir, Pennington believes that "the annual bill for basic state pensions will rise from £26 billion to £42 billion" by 2030, a compound growth of only 1.4 per cent per year. He must have a very gloomy view of the prospects for economic growth for that to be unsustainable.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BLOOM,
47 Old Church Street, SW3.

SELECT INDUSTRIES PLC

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The Directors of Select announce that for the six months ended 31st December 1995 the unaudited consolidated loss amounted to £55,000 on turnover of £456,000 compared with a loss of £931,000 on turnover of £597,000 *for the six months ended 31st December 1994. Included in this loss are non-recurring costs of £56,000 for further* restructuring of the Group's operations and for the capital reduction which was approved by shareholders in October 1995.

As previously reported to shareholders, the Directors have taken a number of initiatives to improve the Group's performance by focusing on higher margin sales and by cutting operating and overhead costs. AirBoss Ground Engagement Plc, Select's UK operating subsidiary, is now sourcing the majority of its rubber tyres at favourable prices from the new facility in Michigan USA of its affiliate company, AirBoss of America Corp. The improved results for the six month period reflect the successful implementation of these initiatives.

At 31st December 1995 liquid assets of the Select Group amounted to £5.1 million, principally comprising cash of £4.7 million. In view of the Company's sound financial position and its available capital tax losses of £86 million, the Directors are investigating suitable acquisition prospects for the Company.

Simon Raynaud
Chairman
1st February 1996

INTERIM STATEMENT

Unaudited results for the six months ended 31st December 1995

	Six Months Ended 31st December 1995 £'000	Six Months Ended 31st December 1994 Restated £'000
Turnover	456	597
Cost of sales	(350)	(526)
Gross profit	106	71
Net operating expenses	(438)	(1,093)
Operating loss	(332)	(1,022)
Interest receivable	163	101
Amounts realised on disposals (written off) of investments	114	(10)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	(55)	(931)
Taxation	–	–
Loss attributable to shareholders	(55)	(931)
Loss per share	(0.02)p	(0.41)p
Interim dividend per share	–	–

The financial information included in this document does not comprise statutory accounts within the meaning of Section 240 *of the Companies Act 1985. The statutory accounts for the year ended 30th June 1995*, on which the auditors have given an unqualified opinion, have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The interim financial information is unaudited.

The comparative figures previously reported for the half year to 31st December 1994 have been restated in accordance with the change in accounting policy in respect of goodwill disclosed in the statutory accounts for the year ended 30th June 1995. In years previous to 30th June 1995, goodwill was, depending on the circumstances, either taken direct to reserves in the period of acquisition or capitalised and amortised over its useful economic life. In the year to 30th June 1995 this policy was revised to take goodwill directly to reserves in the year of acquisition. As a result of this change in accounting policy, the comparative figures previously reported to 31st December 1994 have been restated to reflect the adjustment necessary to eliminate the amortisation *charge in the six months to that date on goodwill previously capitalised of £86,000.*

مكتبة الاهرام

Oil and gas output at ten-year record

By Martin Barrow

BRITAIN'S oil and gas production reached its highest level last year, according to the Royal Bank of Scotland's oil and gas index.

Oil output grew 2 per cent during the year to the highest level for more than a decade. Average daily production reached 2.54 million barrels per day (bpd), just below the previous highest level of 2.59 million barrels, which was reached in 1985. During the year as a whole the UK's North Sea oilfields produced 927 million barrels, equivalent to 360 gallons for every man, woman and child in Britain.

Britain's gas output rose even faster, increasing by 8 per cent to a record high. This was achieved despite subdued gas demand for heating for much of the year.

The upsurge in output was assisted by the growth in demand from new gas-fired power stations and because of the extremely cold period in December. Gas production during the month was 34 per cent higher than one year ago, helped also by the availability of cheap gas supplies.

Mark Shea, the Royal Bank's energy economist, said: "These figures confirm the success of the oil industry in using new lower cost technologies, which make it possible to develop successfully the new smaller fields.

"They also reflect the success of the industry in extending the life of existing fields and recovering a much higher proportion of their overall reserves than was originally thought possible. I believe that this success will continue and that we will see further production increases both this year and next."

The index shows that North Sea oil output was down again in January by nearly 39,000 bpd to an average 2.62 million bpd. But gas production rose again to the highest level since the index was launched in 1991.

Peak trading month for Petroleum Exchange

VOLATILE oil prices, caused by the cold snap and short stock position in northern Europe, underpinned a record month of trading on the International Petroleum Exchange in London in January (writes Martin Barrow).

A total of 1.69 million contracts were traded, an increase of 16 per cent over the previous high set in November 1993. This represents the equivalent of 77 million barrels per day, compared to total world oil consumption and production of 70 million barrels per day.

Brent crude oil futures traded almost 1.1 million contracts last month, an increase of 10 per cent over the previous record set in January 1995 and the first time that more than one million contracts have been traded in a single month.

ALAN WELLER

Gordon Black, centre, with Richard Leivers, chief executive, left, and Stephen Lister, finance director

Sales raise interim at Peter Black

PETER BLACK, the toiletries and cosmetics company that supplies Marks and Spencer, achieved an 8.1 per cent increase in profits in the first half of the current year (Martin Barrow writes).

At the pre-tax level profits eased to £8.2 million from £8.4 million in the six months to December 2, although comparable results for the previous year included a £627,000 surplus from the sale of a discontinued operation.

Group turnover was almost unchanged at £69.3 million, compared with £69.9 million, but like-for-like sales were up 6.8 per cent. Net margins on continuing businesses increased to 11.8 per cent from 10.9 per cent. Gordon Black, chairman, said: "We remain confident that the current progressive trend can be maintained."

The interim dividend rises 8.7 per cent to 1.37p a share from 1.26p, to be paid April 30. Earnings were 10.13p a share (9.52p). The shares rose 3p to 275p.

ICI plans expansion and jobs

By Our Business Staff

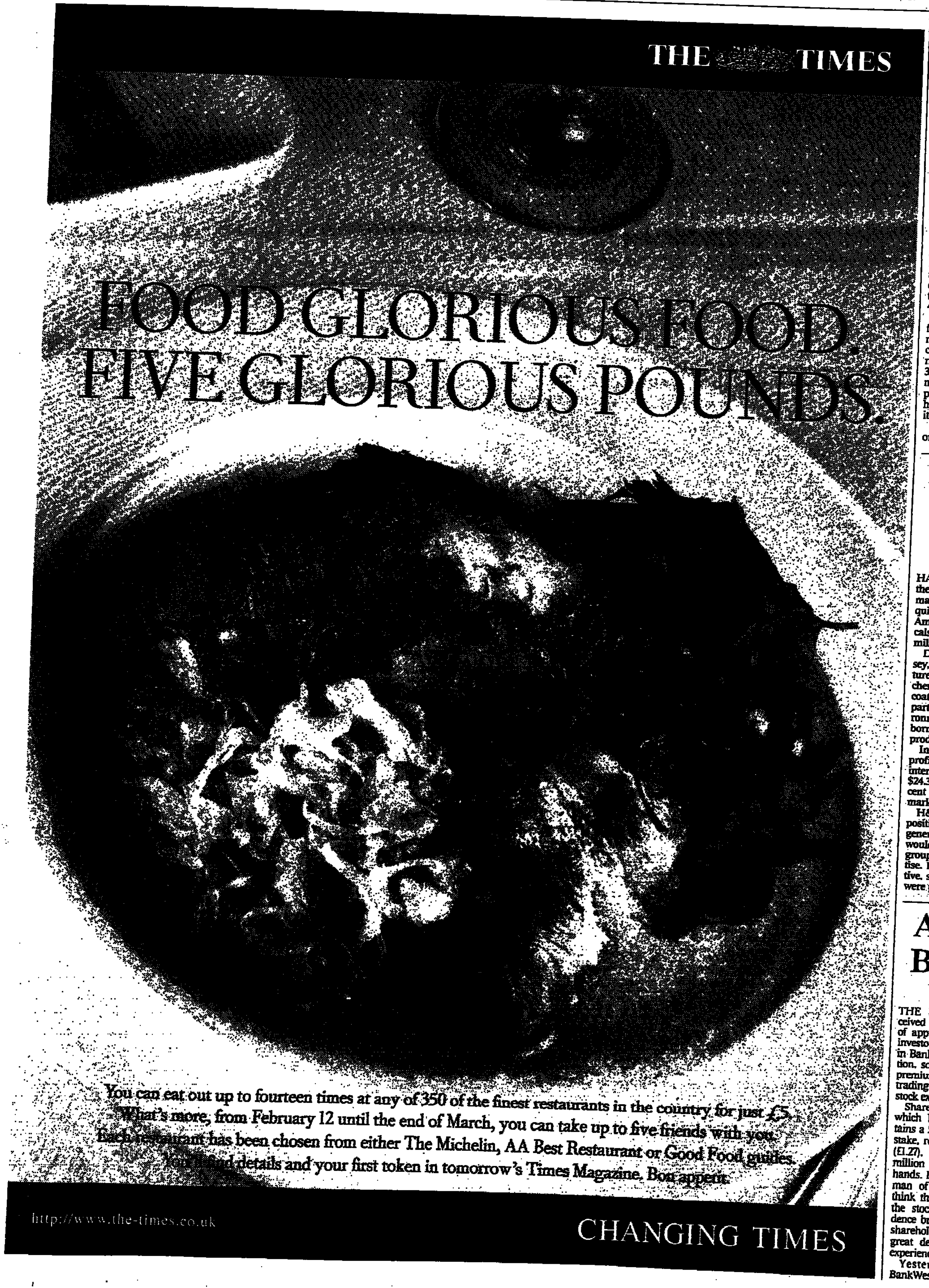
ICI is to invest £60 million in building a new melinex polyester film plant alongside its existing plants at Dumfries, creating 50 permanent jobs in the area and a further 200 during construction.

The plant will add an extra 20,000 tonnes a year to the company's existing world capacity of more than 100,000 tonnes. The plant should come on stream during 1997 and will mainly supply the packaging industry.

Separately, ICI has agreed an outsourcing deal worth more than £75 million over five years with Origin involving about 400 staff in the UK and Holland.

Origin, in which Philips Communications has an 82 per cent interest, will take over ICI's mainframe and legacy applications and management of some other mid-range systems, together with ICI's data centres at Runcorn, Cheshire and in Rozenburg in The Netherlands.

The agreement involves two ICI divisions — ICI Systems and TASC (Telecoms and Systems Computing), which manages ICI's mainframe computing.



You can eat out up to fourteen times at any of 350 of the finest restaurants in the country for just £5.
What's more, from February 12 until the end of March, you can take up to five friends with you.
Each restaurant has been chosen from either The Michelin, AA Best Restaurant or Good Food guides.
You'll find details and your first token in tomorrow's Times Magazine. Bon appetit.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Profits warning rocks ERF shares

By Martin Barrow

SHARES in ERF Holdings, one of Britain's last surviving independent truck manufacturers, fell to a three-year low yesterday after the company gave warning that annual profits would be significantly below current forecasts.

ERF said that, despite a strong first half, order intake slowed markedly in December and January, forcing it to introduce short-time working at its plants. Industry analysts estimate that demand for trucks has declined by about 40 per cent since the autumn.

Shares in ERF fell to 182p from 342p after the announcement, with pre-tax profit forecasts downgraded to just £1.6 million for the year to March 31, compared with the £2.3 million profit reported in the previous 12 months. The City had previously expected profits of about £2.6 million.

ERF said, however, that order intake has seen some recovery and the export business continues to improve, particularly in Africa.

Separately, the company is seeking alternative and additional sources of term finance, with new arrangements expected to be in place within a few months.

Its principal banker has indicated that overdraft facilities are available to March 31, 1997, and a medium-term loan of £4 million repayable in January 1998. The profit warning was accompanied by details of a restructuring of the company's interests in South Africa.

Dorbyl, a South African engineering company, is to take a 70 per cent interest in ERF South Africa (ERFSA), acquiring shares from the country's Industrial Development Corporation and the management. ERF's interest will fall from 56.1 per cent to 30 per cent.

Harrisons buys US company

By Our City Staff

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the chemicals and building materials company, has acquired Daniel Products,an American speciality chemicals company, for about $30 million.

Daniels, based in New Jersey, develops and manufactures pigments and other chemicals used in paints and coatings. The company claims particular expertise in environmentally friendly waterborne and high solid content products.

In 1994 the company earned profits of $3.1 million before interest and tax on turnover of $24.3 million. About 30 per cent of sales are destined for markets outside the US.

H&C said its international position would help Daniel to generate more sales, while it would gain from the acquired group's technological expertise. Bill Turcan, chief executive, said further acquisitions were possible.

Ocean sells control of laboratories

By Our City Staff

OCEAN GROUP, the industrial and distribution services company, will incur a £29 million charge after selling a majority interest in NET, its American environmental testing business, to its managers.

NET's laboratories provide analytical services to industry and public authorities. It has suffered because of a decline in demand for its services, after a reduction in federal support, resulting in intense price competition. In the first half, NET lost £800,000, following a loss of £2.8 million after exceptional costs for all of 1994.

The management buy-out team is led by David Caspersen, president of NET. Ocean has sold 60 per cent of NET's equity for nominal consideration. Ocean has also provided in full against its remaining investment and for guarantees. This provision, of £12.5 million, is in addition to £16.5 million of goodwill previously written off to reserves upon acquisition.

Australia buys on BankWest's debut

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

THE Bank of Scotland received an overwhelming seal of approval from Australian investors yesterday as shares in BankWest, its new acquisition, soared to a 26 per cent premium on its first day of trading on the Australian stock exchange.

Shares in BankWest, in which Bank of Scotland retains a 51 per cent controlling stake, rose 53 cents to A$2.58 (£1.27), with more than 38 million shares changing hands. Ian MacKenzie, chairman of BankWest, said: "I think the public demand for the stock reflects the confidence brought by the anchor shareholder, which has a great deal of expertise and experience in banking."

Yesterday's rise in BankWest shares, which was far greater than analysts had expected, values Bank of Scotland's stake, which it acquired for a net A$462 million (£229 million), at more than A$580 million.

The Bank of Scotland, which agreed to sell down 49 per cent of BankWest when it acquired the bank from the Western Australian government in December, had been forced to close the public share offer more than three weeks early and scale back allocations in the face of overwhelming demand.

Fraser Campbell, Bank of Scotland's general manager for Australasian operations, said BankWest had produced outstanding results in the past few years and was now clearly one of the best performing banks in Australia.

Small losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
586	478½	Allied Domecq	613	- 9	5.7	16.6
543	300	Bulmer (HP)†	598		2.9	16.9
146	99	Burn Stewart	123		5.1	28.5
467	352	Grand Met†	437	- 7	4.8	16.4
536	404	Guinness	459	+ 3	3.8	14.2
445	315	Highland Dist	328		3.0	14.9
217	157	Macallan-Glen	166		1.8	36.8
710	600	Marsh Mtn 'A'	630	...	2.2	17.8
694	532	Matthew Clark†	656		4.2	...
140	61	Minydon W	102	+ 2	2.5	...
2612½	1287½	SA Breweries	2458½	+ 12½	1.5	32.5

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3090¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2887½	- 17½	4.4	10.9
663	413	Abbey Nat	603		4.0	12.1
385	250	Allied Irish	368	- 4	3.9	10.7
336	198	Aus. New Z	334	- 2	4.8	...
4449¾	2531¼	Bank America	4449¾	+ 116¾		
316	191½	Bank Scotland	300	+ 4½	2.6	13.9
812½	557½	Barclays	793	- 1	3.5	10.8
488	288	Bk of Ireland	472	- 4	3.6	9.5
535	418	Cater Allen	479		7.8	7.9
4868¾	2460	Citicorp	4868¾	+ 68¾		
370	216¼	Close Bros	369	- 1	2.9	16.4
£162¾	£129¼	Commerzbk	£153¾	+ 12½	3.5	...
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1258¾	+ 16¾	0.4	...
3312½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3231¼	- 59¾	2.3	...
881½	569¾	Espirito Santo	728¼		5.0	9.5
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1507	+ 2¾	0.3	
490	385	Gerrard Nat	459	- 8	6.1	14.8
253	180	Hambros	205		4.8	
1125	590	HSBC	1108	- 9	3.2	14.4
1089	576	HSBC HK	1087	- 11	3.3	14.1
427	228	Irish Perm	416	- 5	2.9	9.6
463	353	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	15.6
153	85	King Shaxson	153	+ 7	7.4	11.9
350	308	Lloyds TSB	323	+ ½		
640	479	Nat Aust Bk	633	- 7	6.5	8.6
697	454	Nat West	666	+ 2	4.3	10.3

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
39	31	Bandi	34½	- 1½	...	...
24½	15½	Bearing Power†	16		9.8	11.4
28	18	Beged 'A'†	28		3.9	8.6
483	345	Bowthorpe	456	+ 1	3.7	17.5
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	20		1.2	...
96	78	Brit Fittings	83		4.8	12.6
270	215	Caliyx	245	...	3.9	15.9
14	9	Cavendale	12	...	2.9	8.0
88	54	Central Mir	75		0.8	
94	70	Charles Sidney	82		5.6	12.9
61	35	Cook (DC)	60½	- ½	3.5	8.9
328	220	Cowie	327	- 2	3.7	13.9
155	125	Dag Motors	128		7.1	10.4
580	503	Denmans Elect	548	...	2.9	12.4
501	375½	Diploma	429	- 3	4.2	13.9
370	236	Electrocomps	343		2.2	29.3
314	153	Eurodis Elec	303	+ 11	1.8	21.1
235	64	Eurodollar†	107	+ 2	9.1	8.4
130	87	European Mtr	102	- 1	6.4	8.8
449	280	Evans Halshaw	329		5.9	10.2
732	512	Farnell Elect	667	+ 21	1.8	19.4
72	48	Fife Indmar	66		6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardner	18		5.7	7.9
37	16	Glenchewton	37	+ ½	1.0	...
108	61	Gowrings	88		3.2	14.6
228	148	Harris (Philip)	228		4.1	14.4
220	142	Headlam	212	..	2.5	16.6
573	238	Henlys	573	...	2.2	21.5
137	81	Holders Tech©	133	...	5.8	25.3
163	89	ISA Intl	157	...	1.3	17.2
430	200	Inchcape	265	- 3	7.1	24.0
68	53	Jacks (Wm)	58		1.6	11.1
198	142	Kwik-Fit	187	+ 1	3.1	16.8
350½	284½	Lex Service	327		6.6	17.4
195	139	Lookers	144		7.1	..
22	9	Malaya Gp	12		5.8	16.2
9¼	5	Middlesex©	8¼		0.8	18.9
71	36	Midstates	46½			6.3
534	330	Nocmalry	457	- 5	2.1	15.5
268	78	Northamber†	245		8.9	19.7
162	135	PCT©	156	- 4	8.2	11.1
393	225	Pendragon	282	+ 1	3.7	14.7
166	135	Perry Gp	148		6.5	11.2
145	128	Quicks Group	143		5.0	12.2
198	160	REA	188		2.7	22.4
3¼	2¼	Reace	2½	-		
73	48	Rotaprint	53	- 1	2.9	10.8

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
138	96	Metsec	98		4.0	20.7
825	407	Molins	812	+ 7	2.7	14.2
415	283	Morgan Cble	398	+ 1	4.2	17.4
316	178	Morris Ashby†	267		3.3	13.0
55	32	Neepsend	52		3.8	11.0
41½	12	OMI Intl	12½		7.5	
392	238	Powerscreen	380	- 2	2.8	14.1
15½	4	Prospect Inds	4½		3.5	
224	180	Quadramatic†	224	+ 11	4.5	13.0
91	15	Quadrant Gp	16		2.0	44.7
73	60	Radiant Metal	65	...		
61	36	RansomesA	60			16.7
86	58	Record	58		7.8	11.6

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
375	300	Baring Tribune	374	- 1	2.3	
97½	84½	Br Assets	97	- ½	5.9	
102	83	Br Empire Sec	101½		1.2	
42	25	Br Empire Wts	37			
235	194	Br Inv	235	+ 1	2.8	
181	66	Brazilian	174¾			
269	211	Brunner	269		2.8	
136	115	BZW Conv	131½		7.4	
500	318	Candover	493		3.2	
56½	34½	Central Euro Gwth	56½	+ 1	1.0	
193	161	Conf Asset	192		2.0	
80	68	Dartmoor Inv Inct	66		14.7	
345	278	Derby Cap	335			

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
65	54	Murray Euro	60		7.7	
17½	6	Murray Eu Wts	9½			
330	308	Murray Income	329		3.9	
399	296	Murray Intl	338	+ 1	4.0	
163	162½	Murray S/C DP	182			
151	136	Murray S/C Cap	149			
81	71	Murray S/C Inc	71½		13.5	
3250	2900	Murray S/C Uts	3037½		0.5	
500	375	Murray Smaller	497		1.2	
377	308	Murray Vent	359		4.2	
19	11	Newmarket	15			
61	53	Nothing Inc	56		13.4	
79	61	Northrop Cap	65			

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
461	242	BSkyB	420	- 8	0.7	47.6
150	126	CA Gp	140		1.7	27.6
30	22	Caledonian Med	24			
623	343	Capital Radio	617	+ 4	2.1	
1062	851	Carlton Comnct	1043	+ 7	2.8	15.0
425	248	Chrysalis	405		0.9	
100	80	City of London	88		7.8	10.2
115	63	CordiantA	107			
1500	1181½	Daily Mail	1425		1.6	...
1450	955½	Daily Mail 'A'†	1409½	+ 3¼	1.6	
556	295	Dorling Kind	509		1.0	41.5
574	385	EMAP	553		2.5	21.5

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
744	625	Caledonia	702		3.1	21.8
2400	1900	Camellia	2000		2.3	18.4
226	142	Cattles	226		3.3	19.9
35	16	Cirecle	21			
102	61	EFT Group	94		2.4	17.0
775	663	EFM	716		4.2	16.8
186	91	Exco	109	- 3	6.9	5.5
305	161	Gartmore	252	- 1	2.7	21.9
1272	963	Henderson Ad	1135		5.0	23.2
266	162½	Intrum	262	+ 9	2.4	17.3
49	41	Investment Co.†	42		6.8	12.8
257	198	Ivory Sime	234		4.1	17.4
249¼	164½	Jardine Strat	229¾	+ 1	4.3	7.1
144	85	Johnson Fry	109		4.6	7.6
242½	131	Lon Forfaiting	235	+ 2	5.1	16.8
379	216	London Pacific	217		8.8	3.4
193	116	Lon Scot Bk	191	- 2	3.3	
182	139	Man ED & F†	156		7.7	8.0
1354	963	M & G†	1308	+ 5	3.1	26.2
364	224	MAI	364	+ 10½	3.0	12.1
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	130	+ 3½	5.7	
966	680	MAM	894		3.8	19.7
130	90	Nat Home Loan	106	- 1	1.2	4.7
2183	1150	Perpetual	2183	+ 50	2.3	23.1
852	515	Provident	804	- 9	3.9	17.6
336	285	Rathbone Brs	234		3.6	17.2
41½	24½	Rotunda Tst	41	+ 1½	4.0	17.9
355	281	S & U	319		5.1	9.4
133	100	SJP Capital	109	+ 1	3.4	20.6
588½	305½	Smith Pacific	585½	+ 12	2.1	22.5
78	36	Tonny Lon	37		8.4	
371	302	Transatlantic	343	- 1	5.1	23.0
26	3	Tno Hldgs	7½			

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2358	425	Brit Biotech	2113	- 10		
535	103	Cantab Pharms	470	- 35		
692	230½	Celltech	518	- 163		
375	92½	Chiroscience	284	- 15		
284	31	Cortecs	222	- 22		
962	587	Glaxo Wellcome	952	- 9½	3.9	27.8

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
144	81	Flying Flowers	131	- 2	2.0	17.1
295	183	French Conn	185			12.0
269½	140	Frost Group	140	- 5	5.7	11.5
81	46	Gunes	75		3.2	17.0
229	112	Goldsmiths Gp	210		2.2	19.0
712	508	GUS	694	- 3½	7.8	18.2
351	179	Hamleys	326		3.0	14.5
97	25	Hampton Grp	97	+ 11	1.3	18.2
184	125	Hse of Fraser	180		3.8	23.2
83	54	Hughes (TJ)	54		6.1	11.9
168	95	Innovations	130		1.7	28.9
629	329	JJB Sports	606		1.2	26.3
560	379	Kingfisher	530	- 5	3.6	17.7
182	100	Kingsbury Grp	186		1.6	28.1
365	206	Liberty	313		2.9	23.2
452	184	Lloyds Chem	447	+ 2	2.9	16.8
165	108	MFI	162	- ½	3.3	24.2
457	371	Marks Spencer	432	- 2½	3.0	18.7
645	530	Menzies (John)	534	- 5	3.2	13.9
19½	10	Merchant Retail	17	+ ½		11.8
690	338	Moss Bros	683	+ 48	2.6	19.9
469	252	Next	461	+ 2	2.7	25.4
96	34	Owen (G)	80		2.1	65.8
428	243	Oriflame Intl	425	+ 13	3.3	17.3
93	66	Partridge Fine	68		5.5	
155	28	QS Hldgs	38		17.1	10.0
17½	6¼	Ramo Grp	11½			
193	113	Ratners	192		3.2	22.2
120½	54	Sears	94½	- 1	5.2	15.9
24	11½	Signet Group	15			
484	321	Smith WH	416	- 1	4.8	14.2
990	638	Sotheby's	905		1.6	
349	209	Storehouse†	298		2.8	18.4
140	107	Stylo	107	- 3	5.5	9.2
203	143	T & S Stores	194	+ 3	5.3	12.5
171	98	Tie Rack	171		2.0	17.9
4½	1	Upton & South	2½			
598	424	Vendome	565		2.2	20.6
35	14	KEW Group	16		5.5	3.5
138	63	Vardes	125	- 2	1.9	23.2
84	35	Wld of Leather	74		2.5	
216	155	Wyevale	216	- 2	3.0	19.2

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
111	74	INVESCO Asia	110			
72	51	INVESCO Blue	61		17.2	
149	88	INVESCO Eng Int	148		0.7	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	133			
61½	48	INVESCO Tokyo	59	- ½		
99	82	J Fry 2nd U	83	- 2	10.1	
94	78	J Fry Euro U	79	...	7.8	
251	174	JF Fledg Jap	248½	- ½		
128	99	Jupiter Intl Grn	119	- 1	3.8	
272	194	Klnwrt Chrt	270½	- 1	2.6	
128½	95½	Klnwrt E Mkt	127½	..		

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
568	333	Boosey Hwks	568	+ 25	1.3	31.1
3¼	1½	Brent Walker	1½			
46	31	Burndene†	32	+ 1	7.5	
26½	5½	Castel Plc	8		6.2	
115	37	CentreGold	37	- 1	5.4	
288	201	Eurocamp	225	- 3	6.3	
250	118	Euro Disney	165	- 3		
183	93	Euro Leisure	175			5.2
28½	3½	Fairinglord	16			
118½	56	First Choice†	71		7.1	
383	262	First Leisure	350	+ 1	2.8	..

FREE OFFER

FOR EVERY INVESTOR WHO WANTS TO MAKE MONEY FROM THE BOOMING PENNY SHARE MARKET

Simply call the FREEPHONE number printed below and you'll receive a free copy of PENNY SHARE GUIDE, Britain's No 1 publication for tipping exciting smaller company shares PLUS an exclusive free market report.

CALL NOW

FREEPHONE 0500 823 873

Approved by Fleet Street Publications Ltd. Regulated by FIMBRA.
Penny Share Guide is published by Fleet Street Publications Ltd.
37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ.

FIMBRA

The past is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investments in smaller companies generally have a higher risk factor and it can be more difficult to realise such an investment. This investment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubts, you should obtain expert advice.

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
138	110	Klnwt End	138			
85½	73	Klnwt Euro Prvt	83¼			9.4
27½	21	Klnwt Euro Wts	22½			
91	74	Klnwt H Inc	83			13.0
288	213	Klnwt O'seas	288	+ 1	1.5	
148	111	Klnwt Smlr	147		2.0	
605¼	427¾	Korea—Euro	578½	+ 24	0.1	..
125½	71	Latin American	116½	- ½		
995	718	Law Debenture	987	+ 3	2.7	
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	101			
29½	26	Lloyds Sm Dv	27		17.1	
130	102	Lloyds Sm Pkg	127		3.6	
178	160	Lon St Lawrence	172		4.5	

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
406	224½	Forte†	345	- 1	3.1	23.8
175	133	Friendly Hotels	152		4.7	17.8
738½	476	Granada†	715		2.1	17.3
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	31		5.2	...
168	96	Hunting©	152½		4.1	13.1
492	248	Hozelock†	492	+ 8	2.2	19.1
243	134	Jarvis Hotel†	233¾	+ 2¾	3.4	14.9
26½	14¾	Kunick	24¾		3.1	
167½	122	Ladbroke	169	- 3	4.4	51.3
476	264	London Clubs	466		3.8	16.6
213	122	Man Utd	193	+ 2	2.9	8.1
87¼	58	Mandarin Oral	84	+ 1¼	4.3	17.8
100	65	Northern	99		5.1	12.0

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
57	47	Manakin	43			
289	241	Merchantsl	289		5.2	
95	78½	Mercury Euro Pv	92¾		1.9	
32	23¾	Mercury Eur Wt	25			
106	78	Mercury World	103½	+ ½	0.8	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	25½			
613	482	Monks Inv Tst	613	+ 5	1.8	..
164	125	Morg Gren Inc	160		3.9	
63	40½	Morg Wts	61			
86	48	Morg Lats Amer	74	- ½		
48	28	Morg Wts	27	- 1½		
130	104	Murray Ent▼	119		2.5	
34	17	Murray Ent Wts	23			
93½	72½	Murray Emg Econ	93½	+ ½	1.2	
40	18	Murray Em Ec Wt	35			

MEDIA

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492	335	Abbott Mead	492	+ 2	2.0	29.1
310	260	Adscene	275	+ 2	3.9	15.1
46½	22	Aegis Gp	45½	+ 1		18.5
7¼	1½	Allied Radio	3½			
15	9	BBB Design©	15			
315	155	Barbour Index	289		4.0	35.3
10½	4½	Birtdale	7½			
345	315	Black (A&C)	325		5.4	12.6
281	174	Blenheim Gp	257		5.0	15.8
386	196	Border TV	286		1.9	23.5
372	335	Bristol	372		4.5	19.2

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
880	687	Shell	854	+ 3½	4.2	19.0
4681¼	3234½	Total	4559½	+ 84¾	3.4	16.4
349	221	Woodside	343	- 6	1.2	
58	23	XCL	23			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
123	78½	Aberdeen Tst	117		2.7	
101	75	BWD	80		6.3	13.5
78	36	Berry Bch Ntl	36		9.0	10.2
295	148	Bisiec Inv	288	- 1		
158	112	Brown Dolphin	153		4.9	15.9

BRITISH FUNDS

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
108¾	102¼	Treas 15¼% 1996	102¼	- 1/16	14.91	6.37
107¼	102	Exch 13¼% 1996	102		12.99	6.15
104¹⁵⁄₃₂	103⁹⁄₃₂	Conv 10% 1996	103⁹⁄₃₂		9.70	5.94
101¹³⁄₃₂	97¾	Treas 7% 1997	101¹³⁄₃₂		6.90	6.00
109³¹⁄₃₂	106¼	Treas 13¼% 1997	106¼		12.40	5.93
105³¹⁄₃₂	104⅛	Exch 10½% 1997	104⅛		10.04	5.93
104⁵⁄₃₂	100⁷⁄₃₂	Treas 8¾% 1997	103⁹⁄₁₆	- 1/16	8.42	6.04
117¹⁵⁄₁₆	114¾	Exch 15% 1997	114¾		13.11	6.13
107⁵⁄₁₆	102¾	Exch 9¾% 1998	106¹¹⁄₃₂	- 3/32	9.16	6.70
102³⁄₁₆	96⁵⁄₈	Treas 7¼% 1998	101¹⁵⁄₁₆	- 3/32	7.11	6.26
100⁹⁄₃₂	94¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100⁹⁄₃₂		6.74	6.64
117¾	114⁵⁄₈	Treas 14% 1996-01	116⁷⁄₈	- ⅛	12.08	6.38
124½	120¾	Treas 15½% 1998	121¹⁵⁄₁₆	- 1/16	12.72	6.44
114¾	109¹⁵⁄₁₆	Exch 12% 1998	113⅞	- 1/16	10.54	6.49
108¹⁵⁄₁₆	100¾	Treas 9½% 1999	107⅛	- 1/16	8.81	6.52
116¹⁵⁄₃₂	111⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	115¹⁵⁄₁₆	- 1/16	10.58	6.60
112¹⁵⁄₁₆	105¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 10½% 1999	111⅛	- 3/32	9.43	6.62
98¹⁵⁄₃₂	89¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 6% 1999	98¼ †		6.12	6.62
112¹⁵⁄₃₂	105½	Conv 10¼% 1999	111⅝	- 3/32	9.18	6.72
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108¹⁵⁄₁₆	100¹⁵⁄₃₂	Conv 9% 2000	107¹⁵⁄₁₆	- 1/16	8.35	6.76
105⅛	96⅝	Treas 8% 2000	104¹⁵⁄₁₆	- 1/16	7.63	6.79
124¹⁵⁄₃₂	117	Treas 13% 2000	123¼		10.55	6.79
114	104¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 10% 2001	112¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 1/16	8.86	6.97
101¹⁵⁄₃₂	90⅞	Treas 7% 2001	100¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	6.99	6.97
114½	103¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅝	+ 1/16	8.60	7.16
105¹⁵⁄₃₂	94⅝	Treas 8% 2003	104¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 1/16	7.66	7.20
117¹⁵⁄₃₂	105½	Treas 10% 2003	115¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ ⅛	8.63	7.25
119¹⁵⁄₁₆	110¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 3/32	9.69	7.07
83¹⁵⁄₃₂	70⅞	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	4.25	6.13
114¹⁵⁄₁₆	103¹⁵⁄₁₆	Conv 9½% 2004	113¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	8.40	7.43
98¹⁵⁄₃₂	86⅞	Treas 6¾% 2004	95¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	7.06	7.42
108¹⁵⁄₃₂	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	107⅛	+ ⅛	7.93	7.46
114¹⁵⁄₁₆	103⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	113⅞	+ 3/32	8.40	7.48

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
131½	119¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	9.63	7.39
101¹⁵⁄₃₂	94¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 7½% 2006	100¾	+ ⅛	7.48	7.47
103⅛	92⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	101¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	7.62	7.51
104¹⁵⁄₃₂	93¾	Treas 8% 2002-06	102¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 1/16	7.78	7.61
125¹⁵⁄₃₂	113¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	9.49	7.32
108¹⁵⁄₃₂	97¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8½% 2007	107¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ ⅛	7.94	7.56
139¹⁵⁄₃₂	126¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 13½% 2004-08	136¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	9.87	7.39
112¹⁵⁄₁₆	101½	Treas 9% 2008	110¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	8.11	7.62
104½	94	Treas 8% 2009	102⅝		7.80	7.67
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88¹⁵⁄₁₆	79¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 6¼% 2010	86¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 3/32	7.20	7.75
112¹⁵⁄₁₆	101¹⁵⁄₃₂	Conv 9% 2011	110¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	8.17	7.76
113¹⁵⁄₁₆	102⅛	Treas 9% 2012	111⅛ 1	+ ⅛	8.09	7.76
82¾	72¼	Treas 5½% 2008-12	80¹⁵⁄₁₆	- 1/16	6.80	7.50
103¹⁵⁄₁₆	93¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2013	102⅛	+ ⅛	7.84	7.77
101¹⁵⁄₃₂	91¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99⅝	+ ⅛	7.78	7.78
104¹⁵⁄₃₂	93¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2015	102¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	7.64	7.78
111⅝	100¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8¾% 2017	109¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	8.00	7.83
141¹⁵⁄₃₂	127¹⁵⁄₁₆	Exch 12% 2013-17	139¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	8.63	7.87
UNDATED						
45¹⁵⁄₁₆	40¹⁵⁄₃₂	War Ln 3½%	44¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 3/32	7.85	...
32¹⁵⁄₁₆	28⅛	Treas 2½%	31⅛	- ⅛	8.00	
50¹⁵⁄₁₆	45⅛	Consols 4%	49⅝ 1	- 1/16	8.04	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
216¹⁵⁄₁₆	201¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas IL 2% 1996	210¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 1/16	.	2.06
113⅝	106¾	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113⅝	.	1.22	2.46
180¹⁵⁄₃₂	165¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2001	179⅛	...	2.84	3.34
176¹⁵⁄₃₂	161¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas IL 2½% 2003	175¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	3.04	3.43
116¹⁵⁄₁₆	108⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	115¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 1/16	3.06	3.41
185¹⁵⁄₁₆	168⅛	Treas IL 2% 2006	184¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ ⅛	3.18	3.45
167¾	152¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2009	166⅝	+ 1/16	3.28	3.51
173¹⁵⁄₃₂	157¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172⅛	- ⅛	3.34	3.55
143	129¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ ⅛	3.39	3.58
152¼	137⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150¹⁵⁄₁₆	+ 3/32	3.45	3.62
146¹⁵⁄₃₂	131¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	3.50	3.64
122¹⁵⁄₁₆	109¼	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120⅞	+ 3/32	3.49	3.62
120¹⁵⁄₁₆	108¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	118¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ 3/32	3.51	3.64

Source: Finstat

▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all

Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
Grolund Amer	208.30	218.30	- 0.70	0.21
Grolund Equity	278.00	293.70	- 0.80	1.98
Grolund Euro	255.20	269.30	- 0.40	0.68
Grolund Exmpt Bd	131.10	135.80		5.14
Grolund Gilt	77.30	79.69	- 0.35	4.86
Grolund Japan	182.50	193.10	- 0.40	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	635.90	676.50	+ 1.50	2.58
General Inc	546.20	581.10	+ 1.30	2.30
UK Growth Acc	430.70	458.20	+ 1.10	2.68
UK Growth Inc	286.80	305.20	+ 0.70	2.68
Higher Inc Acc	785.40	836.00	+ 1.60	4.05
Higher Inc Inc	437.50	465.50	+ 0.80	4.05
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	208.40	220.00	- 0.60	5.35
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	95.82	101.20	- 0.20	5.35
Nth America	350.10	372.50	+ 1.00	
Europe	334.60	358.00	+ 0.70	0.57
Brit Excell	86.88	92.41	- 0.22	2.80
Brit Fndmtls Acc	114.50	121.90	- 0.23	4.61
Brit Fndmtls Inc	80.17	85.29	+ 0.06	4.61
Global Opps	99.92	106.30	+ 0.10	0.16
Balanced Acc	62.40	66.39	- 0.08	2.67
Balanced Inc	58.72	63.54	+ 0.08	2.67
Japan Acc	48.36	51.45	- 0.01	
Pac Basin Acc	427.20	454.50	- 0.40	0.75
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	132.58	140.60	- 0.70	7.11
High Inc Equity	179.10	191.60†	- 0.40	4.39
Worldwide Bond	293.40	311.10†	- 5.30	4.50
American Growth	352.80	377.00†	+ 1.80	0.58
Asian Pacific	351.90	376.40	- 2.30	0.11
Assets & Earnings	295.10	313.90	+ 0.20	2.72
Euro Capital Acc	168.10	179.70	- 0.80	0.57
Extra Inc	44.56	47.40†		6.48
General	270.10	287.30†	- 4.60	2.90
Global Opps	63.88	67.96	- 0.19	0.44
Japan	130.00	139.00	- 0.10	
Managed Inc	48.13	51.20†	- 0.12	4.54
Momentum	163.10	174.60	- 0.30	1.40
US Emerging Cos	182.00	193.60	- 0.20	
Ethical	76.37	81.24	- 0.46	2.50
International	136.10	144.80	- 0.10	0.70
Dividend & Growth	66.53	70.84†	- 0.18	4.33
Global Gwth & Sec	71.67	76.57		2.46
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2051.00	2134.00	- 26.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	59.52	60.77	+ 0.18	0.51
Cash	50.45	50.45		5.80
Emerging Mkts	73.54	77.69	+ 0.07	0.04
European	134.90	140.30†	- 0.10	
Exempt	1027.00	1095.00†	+ 7.70	1.70
Extra Income #	48.65	52.16	+ 0.02	6.52
Far East Emg Eco	133.60	140.30	+ 0.20	0.45
Fixed Interest #	23.64	24.59†	- 0.46	9.55
Fund inv Tst	161.80	169.90†	- 0.50	9.16
Japan	192.10	199.80	+ 0.60	..
Latin American	56.26	58.93	- 0.02	0.83

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.55	103.99†	- 0.06	2.49
American Portfolio	117.72	124.99	+ 0.83	0.92
European Portfolio	117.52	125.08	- 0.03	0.47
High Income	51.78	51.89†	- 0.08	7.50
Japanese Portfolio	70.98	75.44†	- 0.05	
Pacific Portfolio	162.14	174.35	- 0.56	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	91.99	98.28	- 0.04	2.88
Utility & Bond	57.84	58.58	+ 0.21	6.65
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	739.05	750.83		4.39
Fxd Int Sec	158.79	159.43	..	6.97
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	735.84	746.98	..	4.34
Investment Acc	1382.81	1383.31	..	...
Fixed Int Inc	129.29	129.81		8.88
Fixed Int Acc	219.99	220.87		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	98.92	102.25		2.90
Beck Bio-Tech	53.10	57.18†	+ 2.06	
Acorn Ethical Tst	171.14	179.71†	..	0.62
City Fin Assets	77.72	81.51		2.05
City Fin America	115.22	120.99		
City Fin Intl	93.30	97.87		0.82
City Fin Japan	156.50	164.34†	...	
Friars Hse Cap	306.87	330.87†		2.30
Friars Hse Inc	200.76	213.57		4.16
Buckley Wrld Gth	142.80	151.37		
Fairmount Cap Gr	150.12	158.02	+ 2.02	
Fairmount Intl	162.02	170.55	+ 2.87	
I Sta Intl/Gth Inc	57.08	59.94†	+ 0.27	1.57
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin. 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.76	63.41†	- 0.35	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	76.70	81.60	+ 0.20	
Dragon Growth	76.66	83.01	- 0.04	0.48
Equity High Inc	90.39	98.16	+ 0.22	4.00
-do- Accum	126.35	134.42	+ 0.31	4.00
Extra Income Inc	26.84	28.04†	- 0.05	7.04
Extra Income Acc	28.06	29.53	- 0.08	7.04
European Gwth	60.57	64.28	+ 0.19	0.93
Evergreen	30.10	32.19		
General Equity	97.78	103.75	+ 0.08	2.84
Japan Growth	53.68	57.11	+ 0.31	
Pedigree Gwth	59.12	62.89	+ 0.08	2.55
Pvt Sm Cos Inc	34.69	36.90	+ 0.06	1.52
-do- Accum	36.52	38.85	+ 0.05	1.52
Retirement Inc #	27.37	29.75†	- 0.05	5.84
Special Sits	44.61	47.46	+ 0.06	2.02
UK & Overseas	57.70	61.32	- 0.01	0.69
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 898 000				
Capital	78.52	81.79	+ 0.21	1.86
Balanced	86.56	90.33	- 0.09	4.05
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	179.46	190.91	+ 0.15	4.58

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	74.22	79.13	+ 0.44	..
-do- Accum	74.22	79.13	+ 0.44	.
Amer Smllr Cos	633.20	677.20	- 0.80	..
-do- Accum	646.60	691.80	- 0.70	...
Capital Tst	353.20	375.70	+ 1.00	1.27
-do- Accum	512.90	545.60	- 1.50	1.27
Conti Smllr Cos	60.49	64.62	+ 0.14	0.79
-do- Accum	63.83	68.40	+ 0.15	0.79
Convertible	136.30	146.00†	..	5.28
-do- Accum	289.20	307.70†	.	5.28
Emerging Markets	70.49	75.21	+ 0.11	...
-do- Accum	70.83	75.46	+ 0.11	...
European	134.40	142.90	+ 0.50	0.16
-do- Accum	141.40	149.70	+ 0.50	0.16
Extra Income	368.40	391.90†	+ 0.80	3.83
-do- Accum	573.50	610.10†	+ 1.40	3.83
Financial	155.30	165.20	+ 0.30	0.59
-do- Accum	164.40	174.90	+ 0.30	0.59
Gilt Trust	65.33	67.37	- 0.13	5.95
-do- Accum	96.21	99.20	- 0.21	5.95
Health Fund Inc	264.10	282.20	+ 0.90	
-do- Accum	264.10	282.20	+ 0.90	
Income & Growth	218.70	232.70	+ 1.10	2.98
-do- Accum	342.00	363.80	+ 1.70	2.98
Intl Growth	416.80	444.20	- 0.70	
-do- Accum	462.80	493.30	- 0.80	..
Japan & Gen	185.70	197.70	+ 1.10	.
-do- Accum	187.80	199.70	+ 1.10	
Monthly Inc #	184.30	196.10†	+ 0.30	3.42
Managed Port Inc	117.10	123.30	+ 0.30	1.72
-do- Accum	125.80	132.40	+ 0.40	1.72
Quarterly Income #	55.06	58.11	+ 0.03	4.34
-do- Accum #	61.84	65.54	+ 0.05	4.34
Recovery	362.80	388.00†	+ 1.00	0.80
-do- Accum	428.30	458.10†	+ 1.30	0.80
UK Growth	61.85	65.58	+ 0.17	2.05
-do- Accum	65.34	69.51	+ 0.19	2.05
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	57.89	61.58	+ 0.12	0.53
FP Am Smllr Cos	182.80	195.50	- 1.30	.
FP Asian Growth	304.50	325.60	- 6.60	..
FP Australian	392.40	421.00†	- 3.10	
FP Equity Dist	429.60	457.00	- 0.90	2.43
-do- Accum	931.60	991.00	- 1.10	2.43
FP Euro Gth	257.10	273.50	- 0.20	0.04
-do- Accum	279.50	297.30	- 0.20	0.04
FP Intl Bond	81.34	84.91†	- 1.73	4.75
FP Intl Em Dist	38.14	40.70	..	0.41
-do- Accum	55.69	59.43		0.41
FP Pac Basin Acc	231.70	247.60	- 0.70	..
FP Income #	57.17	60.98	- 0.75	4.95
-do- Accum #	193.30	206.10	- 2.50	4.95
FP Jap Smllr Cos	314.90	335.80	- 4.50	
FP Monthly Dist #	74.37	79.37†	- 0.90	5.13
FP Stg Deposit	100.50	100.50†		5.75
FP Tokyo	85.71	91.44	- 1.27	.
FP UK Focus	40.25	43.27	- 0.16	2.51
FP UK Growth	189.00	201.60†	- 1.60	2.59
-do- Accum	375.00	400.00	- 3.30	2.59
Stewardship Dist	389.10	414.70		1.81
-do- Accum	480.80	511.20	- 0.10	1.81
Stewdship Inc Dist #	77.36	82.29†	- 0.51	4.82
-do- Accum #	103.80	110.40†	- 0.20	4.82
N Am Stshp Dist	118.40	125.90	- 0.30	0.93
-do- Accum	126.90	135.00	- 0.30	0.93
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	124.60	132.50	+ 1.00	1.05
Open Cap Gth Acc	127.50	135.60	+ 0.60	0.04
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	116.10	123.50†	- 0.50	2.39
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	121.40	129.10	+ 0.60	2.39
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	118.70	126.20†	- 1.10	3.33

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc	101.90	107.40	- 0.20	3.97
Sector Value Gwth	103.20	107.80	- 0.30	3.23
Hy 5 Europe	99.42	104.20	- 0.20	2.40
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	223.80	238.10	- 0.20	..
Income #	193.91	206.29†	- 0.12	4.14
UK Growth	75.87	80.71†	- 0.09	0.43
International	85.30	90.73†	- 0.12	0.07
Ecology	97.03	103.22	- 0.24	1.04
European	153.74	163.55	+ 0.28	.
Far Eastern	322.30	343.30	- 0.40	.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	24.87	26.45	- 0.02	2.07
UK Growth	437.28	454.55	- 0.54	2.61
-do- Accum	572.70	609.25	- 0.72	2.61
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01920 825007				
Balanced Fd #	1451.90	1485.10	..	2.90
Income #	1040.50	1058.10†	...	4.90
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.70	163.08	..	3.71

For Manulife see Canada Life

TESSA ACTION PACK

If you have a maturing TESSA, or you wish to take out a new TESSA, this is essential reading:

best tessa rates

what are the alternatives?

how to make your decision

step by step guide

For a FREE copy of the TESSA action pack, phone FREE on

0800 850 661

Hargreaves Lansdown

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7364				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.23	104.80	- 0.10	7.35
Gilt Yield	120.10	126.80	- 0.20	6.70
Global Income	232.90	247.80	- 5.10	3.50
High Yield	143.90	159.50†	+ 0.40	5.62
-do- Accum	477.20	507.70†	+ 1.09	5.62
Smllr Cos Div	57.37	60.96	- 2.17	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	138.40	147.20†	+ 6.40	
Asian Growth	372.10	393.70	+ 0.30	0.21
-do- Accum	434.90	462.70	+ 0.30	0.21

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 085				
M & S Inv Pfolio	171.80	180.80†	+ 0.10	2.08
-do- Accum	201.60	212.20†	+ 0.10	2.09
UK Sel Pfolio	149.60	157.40	+ 0.03	2.49
-do- Accum	177.80	187.10	+ 0.40	2.49
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	76.32	81.19	- 0.32	3.50
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				

■ VISUAL ART

Francis Bacon by himself: an unknown self-portrait goes on show for the first time

■ THEATRE 1

A musical set on Death Row? Yes, *Fields of Ambrosia* is as ghastly as it sounds

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

... but young Nick Grosso's *Sweetheart* delves subtly into a world of loveless bed-hopping

■ MUSIC

Fearless and triumphant: Thomas Quasthoff impresses in a challenging Wigmore recital

How good is the early self-portrait by Francis Bacon that has come to light after 66 years? And where was it found?

Face to face with young genius?

The discovery, announced yesterday, of an early self-portrait by Francis Bacon, who died in 1992, is undoubtedly a major event. The artist made sure that few of the pictures he painted before 1944, when he was 35, have survived. In that decisive year, Bacon completed his first triptych — the enormously disturbing *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*, now in the Tate.

Much of the work he produced before then was destroyed by the artist. Indeed, only 14 of the pictures Bacon painted prior to the triptych are reproduced in Ronald Alley's *catalogue raisonné* of the artist's oeuvre. They give a desperately fragmented idea of his youthful development, and not one is a painted self-portrait.

That is what makes this new discovery so valuable. The painting is probably identifiable as the self-portrait Bacon exhibited in his studio, with a substantial 45-guinea price-tag, in November 1930. Painted on a canvas board with pinholes in the corners, it is a small work, but surprisingly powerful.

Viewed in near-silhouette against a pale, freely brushed background, Bacon's purplish face looks like a boxer's after a bruising fight. His nose seems flattened. Both eyes appear narrowed to the point of closure, reduced to little more than slits. His cheeks look raw, and his lower lip strangely swollen.

But the pummelled state of his flesh, possibly painted in part with his fingers, does not mean that the portrait lacks vitality. On the contrary: the eyebrows rise up in broad strokes, giving his face the exclamatory vigour of a clown in full make-up. Anarchic humour always played a vital role in Bacon's outlook, and the centre-parted hair springs out, to left and right, with irreverent dynamism. Crude it may be compared with his later technical sophistication. But the energy is there in awesome abundance, and so is the readiness to twist a human face like rubber.

How does this discovery tally with the early Bacons that we already know? Some are Cubist studies of Painted Screens, showing the kind of elegant, decorative work produced by Bacon when he launched himself, around 1930, as an interior decorator and furniture designer. *The Studio*, an influential art magazine, reproduced several photographs of his Queensberry Mews studio in London. Here, against cool white walls, the 21-year-old Bacon displayed Cubist wall-hangings, abstract rugs and gleaming metal tables and chairs.

They all proclaimed his allegiance to the modern movement, and testified to his precocious talents as a designer. And indeed, for a while, Bacon prospered in that trade: R.A. Butler commissioned him to design furnishings for his dining room.

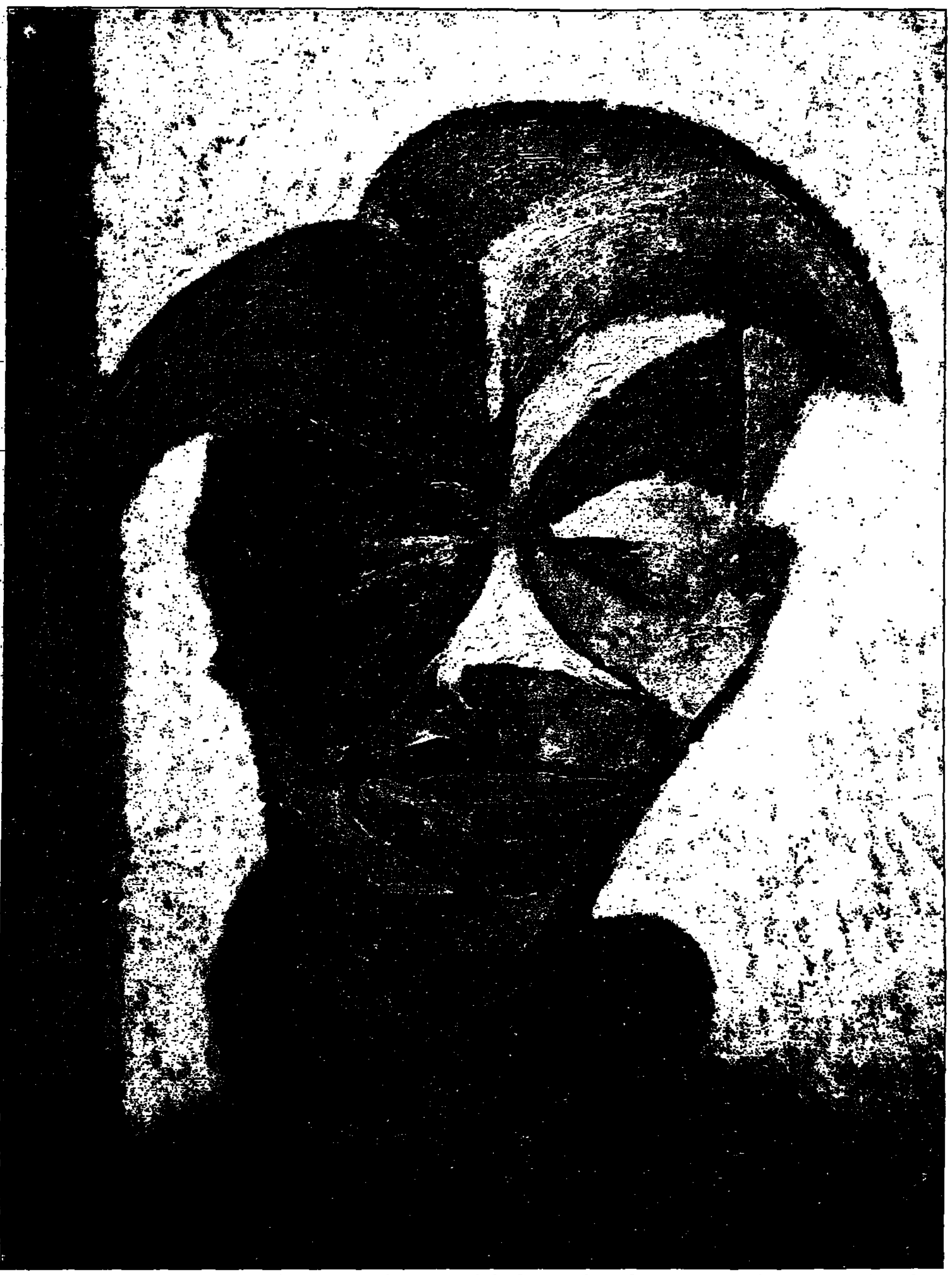
But even at this stage, Bacon's real ambition was to succeed as a painter. Entirely self-taught, he always claimed that art school would have destroyed his individuality. In these early years, though, Bacon's lack of professional training made him feel curiously uncertain about his ability.

We will never know how many pictures he produced during the 1930s, but one in particular stands out: a Crucifixion, painted in 1933 for the leading collector Sir Michael Sadler. After buying an earlier picture from Bacon, Sadler had sent him an X-ray photograph of his skull from which to paint his portrait. Bacon placed the skull next to a figure of Christ hanging from an invisible cross, one half of his body painted in searing scarlet.

No such colour envenoms the newly discovered self-portrait. Nevertheless it does show that Bacon was already prepared, even at this early stage, to take astonishing and even alarming liberties with anatomy. The wonder is that he took so long to develop fully the uncompromising vision announced here with such raw, embryonic strength.

RICHARD CORK

> ‘Bacon's energy is there in awesome abundance’



The newly revealed self-portrait: Bacon apparently kept it secretly for five decades and then gave it to a friend in the early 1980s

Portrait of a discovery

It was only through perseverence that the art writer Angus Stewart found Bacon's early self-portrait. As curator of the Francis Bacon and Henry Moore Exhibition at next month's Fine Art and Antiques Fair at Olympia, Stewart was doing research for the show when he traced the unknown work, painted in 1930.

"I knew there was a possibility of its existence, but Bacon hacked so much of his work to pieces you could never be sure that anything existed," says Stewart, who knew the artist over a period of 30 years. "When I managed to locate the catalogue for the November 1930 exhibition he held in his London studio, which lists a self-portrait, it made me wonder.

"In fact I thought I'd found one: but it turned out I was wrong. But I kept on; I was trying to find different things for this exhibition. I just kept looking and looking and looking. I continued to talk to people who said they knew nothing until eventually someone owned up."

The painting had been given by the artist to its present owner — a close friend of Bacon's — in the early Eighties. According to Stewart, it had been in Bacon's possession for the previous 50 years, although the artist was obviously not keen for the world to know of its existence. "When he was co-operating with Ronald Alley on the catalogue he edited in 1964 of Bacon's works at the Tate, the artist didn't mention it. He always maintained that his early works had been destroyed. I caught him out in telling another fib."

Twenty years later Bacon thought well enough of the self-portrait to give it away. "People who own a Bacon painting have a very deep relationship with it. Certainly in this particular case the owner was a friend of Bacon's: it was a gift which was very personal to him and he didn't broadcast the fact of his ownership.

"In the end he volunteered and brought the painting back into this country and said 'if you want it you can exhibit it'. It was an amazing kindness on his part. When I actually saw the painting, I was banged. It was an amazing thing to see, a remarkable work."

The small self-portrait, measuring 15½in by 11in, will go on show to the public for six days from February 27 at the Olympia fair. After that it will be returned to its owner, who, adds Stewart, has no intention of selling it.

DEBRA CRAINE

THEATRE: Well-crafted study of the unwillingly promiscuous; musical about an executioner in shockingly bad taste

Men misbehaving badly

Sweetheart
Royal Court Upstairs

Nick Grosso's award-winning first play, *Peaches*, enjoyably traced the misfortunes of a group of lads who wanted to think they were having success with women but patently weren't. The 20-year-olds in his new piece are managing the sex all right but not the love part of it, and this troubles them more than they expected.

Lee's girlfriend Jane left him a year ago — for a man of 30, almost a pensioner — and he can't stop thinking of her. Davey has met a woman he does not instantly want to take to bed, because if something more serious is possible he would not want to upset his chances.

Charlie, the sweetheart of the title, mucks up his long-lasting love affair with Toni, but the memory of what he has lost spoils his nights with her successors.

Charlie is the one whose bed-hopping adventures Grosso shows us, in a sequence of scenes across London, with the postal districts flashed on to the rear wall. He chats up Ruby at a club in NW1, lolls on her bed in NW8, goes to NW6 to argue with Toni, meets Davey in NW3.

The easy-flowing talk is totally convincing, with its repetitions and peppering of one-word sentences. Speeches of more than two sentences are rare. Yet this is a formalised dialogue, ingeniously bringing facts and feeling out of the chitchat.

The play is beautifully acted too, with a fine sense of the cautious sussing-out that goes on when a couple are on the verge of becoming better acquainted but aren't yet sure they want to be.

Precise shifts of feeling, excellently paced in Roxana Silbert's production, are traced by Kate Beckinsale's Toni as she watches Charlie's self-absorbed dance, and silently leaves. At the end of the play you feel that Nicola Walker's Kelly, equally watchful, will soon be making the same decision.

Charlie is at odds with the work ethic, not wanting to commit himself to anything that changes the status quo. It sounds like laziness, and so it must be in part, a laziness to understand anything new, but Joe Duttine's performance shows an existential discontentment seething beneath the charm.

Most of the people he meets work in television, and Grosso makes him say that people have to watch television in order to find out what it's like, and should therefore do the same with life. Blocked by this "therefore" he can do nothing but drift.

Grosso never patronises his characters. Davey (Darren Tighe), as ill-informed about the wider world as Charlie, deranges more epitaphs than anyone since Mrs Malaprop, but the comedy is affectionate. With this subtly structured 90-minute piece Grosso clears the hurdle of the second play, where so many young writers stumble.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Death and a midden

The Fields of Ambrosia
Aldwych

THIS American musical isn't quite another "Springtime for Hitler", though there were moments in the first scene when I thought it might be. That is when an executioner called Jonas lures a podgy, bewildered boy into his rickety electric chair, mesmerises him with talk of the nectar and the women he will find in the next life, keeps up the comforting chatter as he straps his limbs and jams a steel band over his head, then throws the switch. "Oh, the fields of ambrosia," everyone cheerfully sings as, half-masked by a chorus of clean-living Southern ladies and gents, the lad passes happily to Kingdom Come.

Probably we have too many feel-good shows in London right now. That does not necessarily mean we want a feel-queasy or feel-pretty-sickened one. It could, I guess, be argued that Sondheim took risks with taste in *Sweeney Todd*; but he was wittily reworking a 19th-century melodrama and, in the process, saying something serious about evil begetting evil. Call it good taste, call it the right tone, call it a basic moral sense: there is something missing in Joel Higgins and Martin Silvestri's tale of the genial executioner who, having amiably returned a hundred males to their Maker, falls for his first female victim.

Consider what happens when Jonas, played by Higgins himself, tries to delay her death by hiding Old Reliable, as he calls his chair. Suspicious guards set on the assembled convicts, viciously beating and throttling and gouging out their eyes while the executioner has gleeful sex with Christine Andreas's Gretchen on a platform above. Or consider the scene in which the local mortician, a forlorn wimp whose smell of formaldehyde puts off women, keeps watch while scores of prisoners are off copulating with six exhausted whores. Grabbed and raped by homosexual convicts, he launches into a soaring sob-song that begins "if it ain't one thing it's another".

How on earth to make such stuff palatable? Higgins and Silvestri's solution is to give their show a folksy, jokey, aw-shucks feeling, supposedly in keeping with the period, which is 1918. No wonder they have problems assimilating the episode in which Gretchen prowls a cage festooned with men singing "hungry for you", or the one in which the chief warder incants "I figure your ass is too good to fry" and sexually assaults her.

Oddly, there is genuine talent on display. Silvestri can turn a breezy country tune. Higgins the librettist may have his limitations, but Higgins the actor has lots of laid-back assurance, and Andreas has a fine, pure voice. Yet if it is easy to see why both principals have strong Broadway credits, it is hard to understand why they are over here. What next — a hanging, gassing, shooting or lethal-injection show? A new genre beckons: the Terminal Follies.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Heart and voice of solid oak

RECITAL

Thomas Quasthoff
Wigmore Hall

THOMAS QUASTHOFF began and ended his London debut recital, fearlessly and uncompromisingly, in at the deep end. It takes a brave man to start with Schubert's big three heavyweights, *Ganymed*, *Grenzen der Menschheit* and *Prometheus*, and then to end with *Der Tod und das Mädchen* as his final encore. But Quasthoff is clearly a man of determination, and both his temperament and his voice, a sturdy oak of a bass-baritone, seemed ideally suited to these songs.

Later he was to tackle the equally daunting dramas of the *Erlkönig* and *Der Zwerg*: this, after all, was Schubert's birthday and there were to be no half measures. And yet Quasthoff's voice — one of grainy strength rather than of any particular natural beauty — does not always touch the raw nerve of the listener, however powerfully it flexes its muscle.

A heavy, thick-textured voice needs, perhaps, to project individual words with even closer focus, particularly in Schubert, whose melodies and rhythms are so minutely verbally activated.

In songs such as *Der Zwerg* and *Der Wanderer*, where the piano accompaniment plays such a crucial part in stage-management, Quasthoff was not helped by Charles Spencer's less than meticulously imagined playing. One longed for a great subtlety of both timbre and movement: Quasthoff's voice, more of the earth than of the air, nevertheless found its way into the spirit of *Der Musensohn* rather more nimbly than Spencer's fingers did.

The broader sweep of melody and the harmonic fervour of Richard Strauss, in *Zueignung*, *Heimliche Aufforderung*, and *Die Nacht*, found a true soul mate in Quasthoff. His skill in nourishing the long line and concentrating his own rapt seriousness of intent into each phrase came clearly into its own in this repertoire.

Although this programme gave him little chance to show it, there is also, I suspect, a droll humour lurking somewhere there, and it surfaced delightfully in Hugo Wolf's *Storchenbotschaft*, the song of the storks' visitation to the shepherd: a nod, a curtsy, and off they fly.

HILARY FINCH

● Valerie Grove interviews Thomas Quasthoff, page 14

A TIMES READER OFFER

YOUR CHANCE TO ENJOY SHORT BREAKS IN EUROPE WITH *THE TIMES*

Holiday Inn

European breaks from just £29

With *The Times* you can take some fabulous short breaks in Europe, via Le Shuttle, staying at hotels such as the Holiday Inn, Lisbon (above), where you and three friends would pay only £49 a night each. These exclusive offers, which all include return travel by car and a double room, and some also include breakfast, champagne tastings or entrance to a casino, have been arranged for our readers by EuroDrive, the continental motoring specialists.

They are available between February 1 and March 31, 1996, and cover 175 hotels in 12 European countries, all carefully selected by EuroDrive to provide you with choices that are as tempting as they are diverse.

You can also travel by Eurostar to Calais, Lille, Paris, Brussels, Bruges or Amsterdam for as little as £60 return.

If you prefer to fly, there are 16 flight destinations at greatly reduced fares, arranged exclusively for you by Hamilton Travel. To book flights only call: 0171-344 3322.

For all other bookings, collect three different tokens from *The Times* and post them with the booking form published on Wednesday. If you missed the booking form, you can get a copy by sending a large sae to: *The Times* Short Breaks, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

THE TIMES EUROPEAN SHORT BREAKS TOKEN 6

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 0181-342 8979

هكذا من الاصل

■ CHOICE 1

Siobhan Davies is among those making dances for Spring Collection

VENUE: From tonight at the Place and South Bank

■ CHOICE 2

***Twelfth Night*, with Edward Petherbridge, is back at the RSC**

VENUE: In preview at the Barbican from tomorrow

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

John Osborne's *The Entertainer* takes the stage in Birmingham

VENUE: In preview at the Repertory

■ JAZZ

From Italy with charisma: Paolo Conte, advocate turned crooner, prepares for his Barbican date

Law of the jungle music

Clive Davis meets a legal eagle turned jazzman on the eve of his London visit

Paolo Conte: the thinking woman's Julio Iglesias, and devotee of Duke Ellington

The city of Toulouse, known to its admirers as *"la ville rose"*, has many architectural splendours. The Palais des Sports, a slab of New Brutalism ten minutes' walk from the Romanesque basilica of Saint Sernin, is not among them.

This bleak outcrop of wan municipal concrete forms the least suitable venue imaginable for a performer as subtle as Paolo Conte. Yet as the audience settles into regimented lines of plastic seats, the singer and his nine-piece band slowly transport us into a world of dreams, one part Harlem, one part Havana.

Jelly Roll Morton, self-styled "creator of jazz", once famously declared that all good New Orleans music required "a Spanish tinge". Conte, a devotee of the trinity of Morton, Ellington and Armstrong, takes the advice to heart. With their languid percussion, mournful accordion and saxophones, his tunes amount to much more than a token exercise in revivalism.

His raw, guttural voice and the melodies swirling around the Palais des Sports seem utterly contemporary. The simple yet effective lighting, the spots cascading onto individual soloists, adds immeasurably to the atmosphere.

All but unknown in Britain but adored on the Continent, the grey-haired lawyer-turned-bandleader from Asti performs at the Barbican Centre tomorrow. Though he spurns all showbiz niceties, seldom speaking to his audience and preferring to concentrate on his piano playing, he casts a curious spell over his public, whether or not they understand his decidedly elliptical Italian lyrics.

His rumpled, saturnine looks help, of course; at a superficial level Conte is the thinking woman's Julio Iglesias. But his charisma goes well beyond physical nuances. He possesses the rare ability to evoke a world of hallucinations, half-consummated love affairs and long, solitary nights in a darkened bar. Had he been born a century and a half ago, he would surely have been a poet.

In his publicity shots, and on the cover of his latest album *Una faccia in prestito* (A Face on Loan) — released on the East-West label — the furrowed Conte brow is well to the fore. Here is a loner, you are led to believe, who never deigns to smile. But away from the stage, seated in his dressing room before his concert, he reveals a far more jovial side to his character. He would, you sense, make good company well into the early hours over a bottle of red wine.

Though the occasional English phrase crops up his songs — one weird, Fats Waller-like interlude goes under the title *Don't Throw It in the WC* — Conte does not speak the language. This, he explains through his interpreter, he regards as a grievous failing. After all, he loves the music of Elgar and the poetry of Kipling. And English is, he feels, the ideal vehicle for his style of popular song. "Italian is a beautiful language, but it's not very rhythmic. English swings much more easily," he says. "You have shorter words. They flow better."

His international success took him somewhat by surprise. He notes that audiences outside his native land approach his work from a slightly different angle. "In Italy people are drawn to my work through the words. Elsewhere they don't always understand the lyrics, but the music is more important anyway. So, that way, they still capture the spirit of the show."

Conte's history offers hope for any frustrated artist trapped in a pin-stripe suit. For years he practised civil law in his family's firm, while playing piano in his free time. His first instrument, back in the 1950s, was actually the vibraphone; for a while he daydreamed of becoming Piedmont's answer to Lionel Hampton or Milt Jackson. He recorded a single with a quartet, without much success. Subsequent groups, with such solid Italian names as the Barrelhouse Jazz Band proved equally unsuccessful.

He turned to writing songs, and in the late 1960s one of his compositions *Azzurro* was a hit for the singer Adriano Celentano. More successes followed, in Italy and France, and he hit the jackpot with a number for Johnny Halliday, the air-brushed Elvis Presley of the French-speaking world. Emboldened, Conte plucked up the courage to try his band as a vocalist.

In concert, his pitch wanders far and wide on occasion, appearing to leave his band cruising in some distant key. People often compare his gravelly delivery to that of Tom Waits; in the band arrangements there is a trace of the songs of Brecht and Weill. Mention this to him and he accepts the compliment. Otherwise he refuses to delve too deep into the matter of influences. All he will say is that he loves classical music, canzonettas and the popular song of South America. And jazz, of course, especially the vintage stuff from the 1920s, when Duke Ellington was still turning out exotic, minor-key "jungle music" at the Cotton Club.

At Toulouse, after a two-hour set including an epic tango encore, he gives a casual wave and disappears into the wings. Strange to think that, as a solo artist, Conte was not exactly an overnight success. He was well into his fifties before he finally renounced the Bar. Yet who now could tell that he was ever a lawyer? That, he says with a broad smile backstage, is because the artistic life has won.

● Paolo Conte *is at the Barbican (0171-638 8891) tomorrow, 8pm*

Electric and eclectic

Mike Gibbs/Creative Jazz Orchestra
Queen Elizabeth Hall

AS A way of launching the Contemporary Music Network into a second quarter-century of presenting original and innovative concerts around Britain, this collaboration between composer/arranger Mike Gibbs and the Creative Jazz Orchestra could not have been bettered. The northern-based orchestra exists to commission new work from and perform the existing music of contemporary composers. In Gibbs, equally adept at creating music for jazz-rock big bands, chamber groups or symphony orchestras, it found the ideal leader.

On this occasion, Gibbs conducted the 16-piece orchestra, driven by guest drummer Peter Erskine, through a rich and absorbing programme comprising not only his own compositions, but also his arrangements of material by Charles Ives, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Oliver Knussen. A couple of Gibbs pieces, the hauntingly contemplative *To Lady Mac: In Memory* and the densely percussive *Kosasa*, the latter's roots firmly planted in Gibbs's native Zimbabwean soil, showed off the orchestra in relatively straightforward jazz big-band mode, its approach tight yet supple, its cohesive ensemble skills nicely balanced against individual solo virtuosity.

The following Turnage piece, however, the four-part *Her Anxiety*, neatly demonstrated just how mutually beneficial a jazz/classical collaboration can be in the right hands. In both this and a later Turnage piece, *Momentum*, Gibbs somehow managed to retain the compositions' considerable complexities while opening them up at crucial points to cogent jazz improvisations from reeds player Iain Dixon and guitarist Mike Walker.

The material by Charles Ives — honoured for his eccentric eclecticism long before Post-Modernism rendered his species of genre-blurring all but compulsory — fared equally well under Gibbs's sensitive handling. Whether drawing out all the faintly soured jauntiness in *Barn Dance* and *Charlie Rutlage* or luxuriating in the "cosmic landscape" conjured up by *The Unanswered Question*, Gibbs created — as his great inspiration Gil Evans always managed to do — a wholly convincing and consistent sound world.

Such intelligent cohesiveness, embracing the most rousing Mingusian rambunctiousness at one extreme and the subtlest impressionistic delicacy at the other, ensured that while the whole performance was thoroughly imbued with jazzy essence of Gibbs, no violence was done to the integrity and spirit of the original compositions.

CHRIS PARKER

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

SPRING COLLECTION: The South Bank Centre and the Place Theatre offer a marathon weekend of some of the best of British contemporary dance. There are established creators such as Jonathan Burrows, Siobhan Davies, Shobana Jeyasingh and Mark Baldwin, alongside young hopefuls including Mark Bruce. The scheduling wisely allows time to get from one venue to another
Place, Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031) Tonight, 8pm; Sat, 1pm and Sun, 11am. **South Bank**, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Purcell Room: Sat, 3.30pm; QEH 🅂 Sat, 7.45pm, Sun, 3pm

TWELFTH NIGHT: Ian Judge's delightful production returns for a brief season, with Edward Petherbridge as Malvolio and Emily Joyce as Viola.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Previews tomorrow-Wed and Feb 14, 7.15pm; opens Feb 15. 🅂

RUBY TURNER: It's standing room only for tonight's show by the sultry soul diva, currently celebrating the release of her new album *Restless Moods*.
Jazz Café, 15a Parkway, NW1 (0171-916 6000) Doors open 7pm. 🅂

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: David Ross plays the failing music hall entertainer, mourning the fall of the British Empire, in John Osborne's **The Entertainer**. Transfers to Leeds in March
Repertory, Centenary Square (0121-236 4455) Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 6, until Mar 2. 🅂

Also in Birmingham, the **Creative Jazz Orchestra** returns tomorrow with Mike Gibbs's arrangements of Mark-Anthony Turnage and Charles Ives pieces. See review, right.
Adrian Boult Hall, Conservatoire (0121-605 6666) Sat, 7.30pm 🅂

HIGH WYCOMBE: A two-month season of **Swan Dance 96** opens with tonight's premiere of *Crime Fictions* by Arc Dance Company. The rest of February brings Adzido's latest African show next week, followed by an opera-inspired double bill by Aletta Collins, RJC with its reggae-inspired piece, *Captured*, and the popular tap show *Hot Shoe Shuffle*. The Royal Ballet and Matthew Bourne's amazing *Swan Lake* round out the series
Wycombe Swan, St Mary Street (01494 512000) Tonight and Sat, 8pm. Until Mar 30 🅂

LIVERPOOL: Carl Davis and the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** team up for a real treat of a performance tomorrow: the programme opens with Bernstein and Gershwin, followed by a screening of Charlie Chaplin's *City Lights*, with Davis's own orchestral score
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789) Sat, 7.30pm.

WATFORD: Giles Croft returns Karen Hope's **Foreign Lands** to the stage. A new lodger moves in to a small family home but proves to harbour a horrific secret — a chilling modern mystery that has won critical accolades. Not suitable for children under 15.
Palace, Clarendon Road (01923 225 671) Previews tonight, Sat, 8pm; Mon, 7.45pm. Opens Tue, until Feb 24 🅂

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) . **British Museum:** Hellenistic World: Art and Culture (0171-636 1555) . **National Gallery:** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . **Serpentine:** Jana Sterbak (0171-723 9072) **Tate:** Bill Woodrow 15 bronze statues (0171-887 8000) **V & A:** Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500) . **Whitechapel:** Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **THE CHANGING ROOM:** David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. James Macdonald directs the third in the season of Royal Court Classics
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Now previewing, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 7, 7pm 🅂

□ **COMMUNICATING DOORS:** Angela Thorne reopens Ayckbourn's ingenious time-travel play, fleeing from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a couple of decades.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE:** Sam Mendes's radiant production: Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm

■ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

■ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC:** Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight, 7.15pm; Sat, 2pm and 7.15pm 🅂

□ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL:** Mark Arden and Bert Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama; produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co, to follow their enjoyable *The Streets of Dublin*.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE:** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

◪ **SWEET PANIC:** Saskia Reeves plays a troubled mother stalking a child psychologist (Harriet Walter) in Stephen Poliakoff's play about the strains of life in today's London
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Now previewing, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Opens Feb 8 🅂

□ **THE TOWER:** Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless. Sinead Cusack plays the murderous queen
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Final week. 🅂

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ◪ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . □ **Dead Guilty:** Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . . ◪ **Grease:** Dominion (0171-416 6060) . ■ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) □ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . ◪ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II** (PG): Steve Martin faces the patter of tiny feet. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams. Director, Charles Shyer
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

KATIA ISMAILOVA (18): Slight but seductive Russian tale of thwarted passion, crime and punishment; with Ingeborga Dapkunaite. Director, Valeri Todorovski
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

LES MISERABLES (12): Unwieldy variation on Victor Hugo's novel from Claude Lelouch, with Jean-Paul Belmondo.
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

WITHNAIL & I (15): Revival of Bruce Robinson's quirky cult comedy, with Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann as would-be actors miserable in the Lake District.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama: director, John N. Smith
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): Crisis point for a woman writer of romantic fiction. Surprisingly sober and tender drama from Pedro Almodóvar
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** 🅂 (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 6705) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE INNOCENT SLEEP** (15): Rupert Graves sees a murder he shouldn't. Creaky British thriller, with Michael Gambon
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire 🅂 (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **Troc** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (792 3332)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's men problems. With Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett
MGMs: Fulham Road 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

DUNCAN CAMPBELL 15 Thackeray St, W8. ROWLAND HILDER (1905-93). Watercolours & Drawings until 2 Feb. 0171 937 8665

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS 0171 713 6000
CORAZON FLAMENCO
"Mesmerising...the best party in town"Gdn Until 10 Feb
Eves 7.30, Sat 3 & 8. £5-£30

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't 7.30 THE MAGIC FLUTE
Tomor 6.30 THE PEARL FISHERS

LA BOHEME
TONIGHT UNTIL FEB 10TH
The Centenary Production.
Fully staged in the Round with international cast.
Royal Albert Hall - February 1st-10th.
Tickets £13.50 - £37.00.
Box Office: 0171 589 8212

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info.
Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Ton't, Mon 7.30
SAMSON ET DALILA
Thur 7.00
THE MIDSUMMER MARRIAGE
The Royal Ballet
Tomor 2.00 & 7.00, Tue 7.30
THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
Wed 7.30 (First Night) Ashton's RHAPSODY/NEW HART BALLET/NEW AGE PAS DE DEUX/MacMillan's THE INVITATION

THEATRES

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8,Mats Thu 3,Sat 5
5 WEEKS ONLY!
THE LONG & THE SHORT & THE TALL
by Willis Hall
ALL SEATS £5!!!
This Fri at 7

ADELPHI
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal
SUNSET BOULEVARD
Winner of 7 Tony Awards including
BEST MUSICAL
Starring
PETULA CLARK
24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee)
GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee)
No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers
Recorded information 0171 379 8884
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALDWYCH BO & cc 0171 416 6048 (no bkg fee). cc 344 4444 Grps 0171 930 6123/416 6075/413 3321
The FIELDS of AMBROSIA
A New Musical
"A stunning score" Sheridan Morley
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Extra mat today 3pm all seats £15

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15
HAYLEY MILLS
"Magnificent" F.T.
JENNY SEAGROVE
"Impeccable" Times
DEAD GUILTY
"Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER" S.Times
RECORD-BREAKING RUN
EXTENDED TO MARCH 16

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
New production of
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail
White knuckle runs 19.45 daily
Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO LABATTS HAMMERSMITH 0171 416 6065 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee)
"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER & TIM RICE'S BLOCKBUSTER"Gdn
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD
FEB 22 - APR 20

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454
FAME
THE MUSICAL
"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday
"BREATHTAKING" Independent
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
ZOE WANAMAKER in
THE GLASS MENAGERIE
by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Directed by Sam Mendes
Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00
LIMITED SEASON

CRITERION B/O 0171 369 1747
THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE CO
Opens March 5

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200
GREASE
Staring RICHARD CALKIN and SAMANTHA JANUS
"Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/420 0000 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std
NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/5837 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24hrs, no fee)
ROYAL COURT CLASSICS
David Storey's legendary epic
THE CHANGING ROOM
"a miracle of the theatre" S. Times
For 9 WEEKS ONLY
Eves 7.30, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033
DAVID BURKE ANDREW HAVILL
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A real thrill of horror" S.Times
NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR
Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

FORTUNE Cov.Gdn 0171 836 2238
ELIZABETH MANSFIELD as
MARIE
Nominated
Best Actress in a Musical
Olivier Awards 1996
EVERY SUNDAY 3.30pm

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee)
Some Experiences You Never Forget
WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS
The Royal National Theatre production
JB Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail
"ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s"Eve.Stand
"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA"D.Tel
Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD 494 5065/344 4444 /420 0000
TOM CONTI SHARON GLESS in NEIL SIMON'S
CHAPTER TWO
FROM FEB 7

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee)
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
Martin Shaw Anna Carteret
Penny Downie David Yelland
Michael Denison Dulcie Gray
OSCAR WILDE'S
AN IDEAL HUSBAND
Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
12 WEEKS ONLY
"GREAT & GLORIOUS" S. Times

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO DEC 96
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00.
Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5454
JIM DALE
RETURNS TO THE WEST END
"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail
OLIVER!
2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR
"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252. Grps 0171 620 0741;24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000
OLIVIER Ton't 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler
LYTTELTON Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 THE WAY OF THE WORLD
William Congreve
COTTESLOE Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 STANLEY Pam Gems

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 6655/312 8034
'ALAN BENNETT'S SUPERB ADAPTATION' F.T.
The Royal National Theatre's
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS
"AN IRRESISTABLE PIECE OF THEATRE" LNR
" A wonderful evening " F.T.
"AN ABSOLUTE WINNER" Time Out
Now booking to 30th March
Mon - Sat 7.30pm,
Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier/Drama Awards
Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
STEFAN DENNIS CARL WAYNE
"...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321
WINNER!
BEST MUSICAL
Evening Standard Award '95
BEST MUSICAL
BEST ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL
Caroline O'Connor
'96 Olivier Award Nominations
Jerry Michael
Herman & Stewart's
MACK & MABEL
THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE
Mon-Sat at 7.45
Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444
SYLVIA SYMS,HENRY McGEE
LYNDA BARON
TREVOR BANNISTER
RAY COONEY, PETER ELLIS
RON ALDRIDGE
& RODNEY BEWES
IN RAY COONEY'S
NEW COMEDY HIT
FUNNY MONEY
NOMINATED BEST COMEDY
1996 OLIVIER AWARDS
"LAUGHS GALORE... A WINNER"D. Exp
"Better than Feydeau... priceless"D Tel
Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123.
BEST MUSICAL
Laurence Olivier Awards 93
CRAZY FOR YOU
Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00
GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK
MUST END 24 FEB

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200
Cameron Mackintosh presents
MARTIN GUERRE
A New Musical by
BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG
FROM 22 MAY 1996

SAVOY 0171 836 8888 cc 0171 420 0100 (no bkg fee)
ANGELA THORNE
COMMUNICATING DOORS
by ALAN AYCKBOURN
Nominated Best Comedy
Olivier Awards 1996
"A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D.Tel
"with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321
TOMMY
PAUL KEATING As Tommy KIM WILDE As Mrs Walker
"AN ENTERTAINMENT JUGGERNAUT THAT LIFTS THE AUDIENCE RIGHT OUT OF ITS SEATS"NY Times
Previews 20 February, Opens 5 March

To advertise in this section please call our Entertainments Team on
0171 481 1982
or fax
0171 481 9313

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee)
Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8
44th Year of Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
BUDDY
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
BUDDY
Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
7th HEAVENLY YEAR

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fee)
"For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see The RSC production of
THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE"
The Times
"This hugely enjoyable show"
Daily Telegraph
Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm
Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/497 9977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee)
1996 OLIVIER AWARDS
Nominations
JOLSON
BEST MUSICAL
*
BRIAN CONLEY
BEST ACTOR
IN A MUSICAL
*
JOHN BENNETT
BEST SUPPORTING ARTISTE
IN A MUSICAL
JOLSON
"Worth walking a million miles to see"D.Mail
Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO 28th SEPT

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/497 9977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee)
1996 OLIVIER AWARDS
Nominations
BEST MUSICAL
JOLSON
BEST ACTOR
In a musical
BRIAN CONLEY
BEST SUPPORTING ARTISTE
In a musical
JOHN BENNETT
JOLSON
"Worth walking a million miles to see"D.Mail
Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO 28th SEPT

WHITEHALL 369 1735/344 4444/ 420 0000
"BEST NEW MUSICAL IN TOWN...BRILLIANT"MoS
ROY ORBISON STORY
GUEST-STARRING P.J. PROBY
½ PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
Tues-Thu 8, Fri, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, Sun 4

WYNDHAM'S 0171 369 1736 (no bkg fee) /344 4444 (bkg fee)
Nominated for 5 Olivier Awards
MICHAEL GAMBON LIA WILLIAMS
SKYLIGHT
by DAVID HARE
Directed by RICHARD EYRE
The sold-out production at the Royal National Theatre now transfers for 10 weeks only from 19 Feb

OPERA & BALLET

DUE TO PUBLIC DEMAND
TWO EXTRA SHOWS JUST ADDED
THURS 8 at 7.30pm & SAT 10 FEBRUARY at 2.30pm
Cards American Express presents
THE CENTENARY PRODUCTION OF
LA BOHÈME
Produced by Raymond Gubbay and the Royal Albert Hall
Supported by The Daily Telegraph
Tonight, Sat 3 (also matinee at 2.30pm); Sun 4, Wed 7, Thur 8, Fri 9 & Sat 10 (also matinee at 2.30pm) FEB at 7.30pm
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
Tickets from £13.50 to £37.00
ROYAL ALBERT HALL BOX OFFICE 0171 589 8212
BOHEME BOX OFFICE 0171 403 3331 (24 HOURS)
Cavendish Hospitality Hotline 0181 567 3550
EMI presents a centenary edition of Puccini's masterpiece. A complete performance of Puccini's La Boheme, available in a double CD set. Available from all good record shops.

■ POP 1

A class act on twin tracks: how Gemini are spreading a little melody in our schools

■ POP 2

Babylon Zoo follow their astounding single with an equally fine new album

THE TIMES ARTS

■ POP 3

. . . while Nick Cave presents a chilling disc of Gothic melodrama on *Murder Ballads*

■ POP 4

. . and Marion, five Mancunians, make a fine album debut with *This World and Body*

Alan Jackson joins chart wannabes Gemini on a groundbreaking gig – at a school in the Midlands

Extra lessons in screaming

ADRIAN BROOKS

Gemini rising: David and Michael Smallwood meet and greet their public after an SRO gig at Deansfield High School in Wolverhampton

It is a cold, wet Wednesday afternoon in Wolverhampton, and lingering in the corridors of Deansfield High is the faint but unmistakable smell of school dinners only recently served. All around us is clean and polished, and the passing teenager flagged down for directions to the Head's office proves to be a model of politeness.

It is not an environment which immediately says to you "showbusiness". Yes, the pupils are in rehearsal for a forthcoming production of *The Mikado*, but this would not be the first place you would think of looking for the next Take That or Boyzone.

Which — today at least — would be a mistake. In the assembly hall it may be time for the weekly PSE (Personal and Social Education) programme, but on offer is not a reprise of the last highlight, a question-and-answer session with the Samaritans. The rows of shuffling, fidgeting girls and determinedly uninterested boys are here to cast their verdict on teen pop's latest wannabes — Gemini, identical twins David and Michael Smallwood, 21, all smouldering looks and razor-sharp cheekbones on the cover of their latest single, *Steal Your Love Away*.

"The idea of doing a schools tour came to me back in 1991 when I was promoting Take That," says the duo's manager, Carolyn Norman. "It was in the days before they had a record deal, and I was looking for ways of building them a fan base. We'd tried doing a Tiffany [America's youth sensation of 1988, all but forgotten by 1990] and playing the shopping malls, but it was a bit of an embarrassment for the lads — you could never get the sound right, and people were too busy doing their shopping to take much notice.

"A club tour wasn't right either — the punters are there to dance or to meet friends, so aren't interested in paying attention to a bunch of hopefuls. We needed something new and exciting, something that would allow us to hit that sector of the youth market that actually does go out and spend its money on singles — and this was it. Not that we were ramming the band down children's throats and saying 'Get the record, or else . . .' It was just a matter of taking the opportunity to introduce the boys to a contained audience and saying: 'Well, here they are and this is what they do. What do you think?' "

It all makes good business sense, but where is the educational value in a four-song performance by luscious, pouting Gemini? Hugh Howe, head of Deansfield and its 500 pupils, has a plausible explanation.

"We're trying to raise achievement levels in a school where many of our youngsters come from backgrounds where unemployment, housing and general lack of facilities are an issue," he says. "But more fundamentally we're about trying to raise aspirations.

"Three girls in Year Ten petitioned to invite them here, and I thought that it would be useful for our 13 and 14-year-olds to have the chance to see two other young people who themselves are aspiring to move forward and make their way in the world. We're not saying that this is the career path they too should follow. We're just saying look, listen, ask questions and see what you can learn. It's what PSE is all about — broadening pupils' horizons, challenging some of their assumptions about themselves and the world around them. And, of course, there's been a great buzz in school because it involves a pop group."

Back in the assembly hall, it's ready, steady and go for Gemini in their bid to capture the pocket money vote. Against backing tracks cruelly distorted by the predictably dodgy acoustics, they sing their singlet-covered hearts out, all the while twisting and turning their way through the complex dance routines de rigueur at this end of the pop market. Initially coy, the girls in the audience soon remember how to scream.

"They're sex on legs," is the joint conclusion of Kelly Hopkins and Kathy Jones. "Good singers, great bodies — far better than Take That," chime in Katrina Hyde and Michelle Aris. In the row behind, a male classmate viewing the proceedings from behind Joe 90-style specs opines with all due sagacity: "Very professional presentation, and good songs." Ah! So he'll be buying the Gemini single? "No."

After a Paxmanesque grilling from the floor ("What's your favourite football team?" "*Have you got a girlfriend?*" "What's the best way to tell you apart?") and a lengthy autograph-signing session which finds some newly minted girl fans coming around for a second or even a third time, the twins retire gratefully to an empty classroom. Yes, they acknowledge, for every Wham! there's a score of failures. "So it's a risky business," says Michael. "But even to get to the stage we're at now, first with a publishing deal as songwriters, then with a recording deal as artists, is an achievement."

David adds: "OK, so the percentage of boy groups who actually get deals then go on to make it as big as Take That is small. But never mind. We'll just do our best and be as successful as we can be."

"They're such nice, ordinary lads, magnificent at dealing *with the kids*," is the verdict of Ken Gilkes, the staff member in charge of Deansfield's entertainments programme and *hence the man lobbied by the* school's three original Gemini fans, Joanne Till, Clare Wiley and Vicki Summers.

Norman, who has also been involved in the careers of Bad Boys Inc, Let Loose and Right Said Fred, says: "I can't say exactly why I wanted them to be the first band I managed, other than that I got the most horrendous butterflies in my stomach the first time I saw then perform. They're stars even before they've got started. They're nice guys, they're absolutely stunning to look at — and they're talented. Which, at the end of the day, is what counts."

So even though, right now, Gemini are climbing into the back of a van in a wet Wolverhampton school playground, that doesn't mean they're no-hopers. This is what it takes nowadays to break a teen band — and they gave it their all. If anyone deserves Deansfield's spending money, it's these two.

● *Steal Your Love Away is available now on EMI*

> ‘They're nice lads, magnificent at dealing with the kids’

Are you the Marion kind?

What Marion are doing is so unfashionable that one expects to see the Duchess of York wearing it at some charity bash next week. In an in-between time, after the cartoon jolliness of the bright Britpop crowd and before whatever happens next, Marion have wandered off into the high mountains and thundery skies of wild, impassioned pop-rock — the same vein that Radiohead, early U2 and Echo and the Bunnymen mined so *rewardingly*. There's no irony, punch-ups, Children's BBC positivity or novelty Top Ten hits here; just a massive sense of relief, release, and a nagging compulsion to record aspirational, inspirational rock that *means something*.

CAITLIN MORAN

Marion's lyricist, the 20-year-old *wunderkind* Jaime Harding, wails hard and long about "all going together" into suicide, lost dreams, stifled ambitions *and endless grey skies. This World and Body* (reviewed below) is an album you could live inside for weeks. Its *drive*, *passion* and breadth hint at a band that could be seriously rivalling Radiohead within a year for the coveted Band Most Likely to Break America in Two award. You could drive a thousand miles to *This World and Body*.

"Well, we write all our songs while we're driving around," Harding says. "We peg it all around Buxton and grey, lumpy places like that; trying to fit chord changes to gear changes. That's probably what makes the album sound so driven — because we were being driven at the time. You know that feeling, where certain chords seem to make the car go faster? That's what we were aiming for."

And they've done it admirably well, to a point where, after a disappointing year ("We were bobbins at Glas*tonbury — we'd finished the* album the day before and had a new bass-player we'd never even rehearsed with. I *felt so sick* because we were playing so badly"), Marion are so in demand that Harding hasn't got a free day until September. "I've booked a dental appointment for the 23rd, to treat myself.

"We want to get another album out this year — we've already written it. I like to keep myself busy. I need order and routine and a work schedule imposed on me; otherwise I just flail around not knowing what to do. I just smoke and watch telly."

Despite his wry sense of *humour*, Harding is one of our more troubled pop stars. He speaks of not liking himself, of only ever feeling alive when in front of an audience. His Bono-like roar and croon are deeply affecting because singing seems to be the only time he ever feels fully free.

"I have horrible nightmares," he says. "My mum and stepdad were woken up by me banging on the front door at three in the morning. *I was wearing just* pants, a pair of Doc Martens, a rucksack, and burbling on about how a man *was going to steam me to* death. But I love sleep — it's my favourite thing."

What are the other nine? "Oh, another nine kinds of sleep. You know — on your side, on your front, in a chair, on the floor, in a van . . . I had my best ever sleep in New York last year. We'd gone to see our American record company; they're in a huge building in the middle of Manhattan. We were on the top floor as the sun was going down, and they put on the finished album. It was the first time we'd heard it since we were in the studio. I was looking at New York's lights and dark patches, listening to the album, being amazed by how good it was, by how vindicated I felt. I slept like a baby that night."

With Harding's phenomenal work rate ensuring there will be a second *Marion album before the* end of 1996, the band seem almost certain to set up residence in the charts be*fore the summer is fully out.*

Jean genie shakes off the jean jinx

NEW ALBUMS: *Babylon Zoo are shooting for the moon*

BABYLON ZOO
The Boy with the X-Ray Eyes
(EMI 7243 8 37204)

THE phenomenal success of *Babylon Zoo's* first single, *Spaceman*, which registered the biggest one-week sale in this country since Band Aid's *Do They Know it's Christmas?*, has not entirely laid to rest doubts about the group's long-term viability. Still looming in the wings is the spectre of Stiltskin, who enjoyed a similarly explosive hit thanks to a Levis advertisement in 1994, and promptly sank without trace.

However, with the arrival of Babylon Zoo's debut album, *The Boy with the X-Ray Eyes*, such worries may confidently be set aside. Written, played, sung and co-produced by 24-year-old Jas Mann from Wolverhampton, it is a credible and cohesive collection of songs which harnesses a big, distorted guitar sound to a futuristic vision that is more lunar-pop than Britpop.

Spaceman, a good-natured chronicle of space-age fear and loathing set to an *unforgettable* chorus, has clearly struck a chord in the Britain of the late 1990s and already has the sound of a pop classic. And, while Mann's glam-rock influences are clear — a sort of Bowie-meets-Suede amalgamation, adapted for the post-grunge era — he has the wit to convert them into something identifiably his own and to carry the torch forward.

The mechanical-sounding production results in a lack of swing, but Mann skilfully works the angles on a narrow defined patch, weaving together dense layers of guitars on *Zodiac Sign*, conjuring a melancholic mood on *Caffeine* and hitting the jackpot with the surging, Beatles-derived *melody of the title* track.

At his most arch, he sounds like a poor man's Brett Anderson — "London town is burning/And the New York lights are laughing/But nothing, oh nothing, can tear us apart," he sings over and over again in *Is Your Soul for Sale?*, before petering out in a croak of despair. But it chimes perfectly with the new mood of doomed romanticism that seems to be surfacing as the cheery optimism of Britpop begins to fade.

NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS
Murder Ballads
(Mute STUMM138)

ORGANISED around a simple theme which gives full rein not only to his morbid obsession with violent death but *also to his supreme talent as a* narrative songwriter, *Murder Ballads* is vintage Nick Cave. An album rich in Gothic *drama* and elemental truths, it is by turns graphic ("They found Mary Bellows cuffed to the bed/With a rag in her *mouth* and a bullet in her head"), sad ("All beauty must die") and comic ("Since I was no bigger than a weevil, *they've* been saying I was evil").

The centrepiece of the album, a 14-minute mass-murder fantasy called *O'Malley's Bar*, is a somewhat laboured exercise, but Cave's raging performance of *Stagger Lee* and his droll excursion into the mind of a 15-year-old female serial killer in *The Curse of Millhaven* rank among the best performances of his ten-album solo career.

Best of all are the duets with P.J. Harvey (a spellbinding *Henry Lee*) and Kylie Minogue on the mournful *Where the Wild Roses Grow*, Cave's biggest ever hit. The finale, a grand singalong version of Bob Dylan's *Death is not the End* featuring the massed voices of Cave, Harvey, Minogue, Shane MacGowan and others, is so macabre it sounds as if the song has not so much been recorded as embalmed.

Missing the boat? Marion have finally released their album but will not play live again until March

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
2	Jagged Little Pill	Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
3	Different Class	Pulp (Island)
4	Boys for Pele	Tori Amos (East West)
5	Robson & Jerome	Robson & Jerome (RCA)
6	HIStory	Michael Jackson (Epic)
7	Something to Remember	Madonna (Maverick)
8	All Change	Cast (Polydor)
9	CrazySexyCool	TLC (LaFace)
10	The Bends	Radiohead (Parlophone)

Copyright CIN

MARION
This World and Body
(London 828 695)

TIMING is such a crucial *factor* in launching a band such as Marion. Five surly young men from Manchester with scissor-kick stage moves, a repertoire of thrusting, guitar-led pop tunes and a singer who sounds like Bono in a hurry . . . wasn't that last year's thing? And, having toured themselves into the ground to promote a couple of singles this time last year, why, with the album finally ready, are they nowhere to be seen until the end of March?

Judged purely on its merits *This World and Body* is a decent enough debut, whose high points include a much improved re-recording of their single *Sleep*, the untypically sensitive ballad *Your Body Lies* and the pounding *rifferama of Fallen Through* and *The Only Way*. But although dispatched with tremendous vigour and a lot of heart, the nagging impression remains that they may have missed the boat.

MINISTRY
Filth Pig
(Warner Bros 9362-45838)

NEVER far from self-parody at the best of times, Ministry have drifted into the realms of cliché with their seventh album, *Filth Pig*. Outflanked in recent years by a wave of industrial acts they influenced in the first place, notably Nine Inch Nails, the duo of Al Jourgensen and Paul Barker have responded by redoubling their efforts to sound as grossly doomy and nihilistic as possible.

The result is a wearying barrage of sub-Black Sabbath guitar riffs, accompanied by Jourgensen bellowing slogans such as "I've never had a life, I don't even know what life is" in his gargling-of-the-gods voice. It does not work at anything less than window-threatening volume, and even then its theatrical effect is strictly one-dimensional. And their version of Bob Dylan's *Lay Lady Lay* is so bad it is not even funny.

DAVID SINCLAIR

RADIOHEAD

For many **RADIOHEAD's "The Bends"** is the album of the year

"Since March, no record has measured up to the heart stopping truth and beauty of **RADIOHEAD's "The Bends"**. Twelve tracks, 48 minutes, and you're a boggly-eyed loon, clutching people's lapels and screaming "Did you hear that"? The album by which, in years to come, 1995 will be known". . .
(The Times)

1996 brit award nominees
best band · best album "the bends"

Parlophone

[illegible]

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 9994

EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

POSTS

Head
Lady Eden's School
Central London

Soon to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, this much sought after girls' nursery and preparatory school, with 160 pupils, requires a new Head.

THE SCHOOL
- Founded in 1947 by the late Patricia, Lady Eden, for girls aged 3 to 11 years.
- IAPS school with excellent entry record to top senior girls' schools.

THE POSITION
- Work closely with the present owners, and Directors, Lord and Lady Eden.
- Take responsibility for the administration of the school, implementation of a comprehensive curriculum and direction of the staff.
- The post is available from September 1996 when the present Headmistress, Mrs Wayne, moves abroad.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Graduate teacher with understanding of young children and knowledge of requirements of girls' senior schools.
- Ability to foster happy and caring atmosphere.
- Good communication skills and ability to inspire confidence. Computer literate.

Please send full cv, stating salary, by 16th February 1996, ref ED60202, to NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX

N B SELECTION LTD
a BNB Resources plc company

NBS

London 0171 493 2220
Aberdeen • Birmingham • Bristol • City
Edinburgh • Glasgow • Leeds • London
Manchester • Slough • Madrid • Paris

BENENDEN
SCHOOL
DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)

We seek for this senior residential position a lively person with administrative and pastoral ability and a strong commitment to boarding and girls' education.

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) carries responsibility for the management of residential life and pastoral care of the School, and is responsible for leading a team of nine Housemistresses/masters. The holder of this post reports directly to the Headmistress.

Applications should be made to the Headmistress by Wednesday, 14 February 1996. This is a readvertisement and previous candidates need not apply. Further details and an application form may be obtained from:

Gillian duCharme, Headmistress, Benenden School,
Cranbrook Kent TN17 4AA
Telephone (01580) 240592 Fax (01580) 240280

Benenden School (Kent) Ltd is a registered charity founded for the provision of education to 440 girls aged 11-18 years, all boarding

---

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

University Offices
Press Officer
Academic-related Administrative Grade 3
Salary £22,374 - £26,430 with a discretionary range to £29,532

Applications are invited for appointment as Press Officer within the External Relations Office of the University's Central Administration.

This is a senior appointment, with responsibility for supervising, maintaining and developing the University's extensive relations with the media, both at home and abroad. The work of the Press Office also embraces all aspects of the University's internal relations with colleges, faculties and departments. Essential requirements will include an ability to work well under pressure, excellent communication skills, and a high level of writing ability. A good understanding of higher education and experience of the media will be expected.

Further particulars are available from the Deputy Registrar (Administration), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (Tel. 01865 270003), to whom applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent by 23 February 1996.

The University exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

THE CAVENDISH SCHOOL
London NW1
HEAD
September 1996

Applications are sought for the post of Head to succeed Mrs L J Harris as from September 1996. The Cavendish School is a flourishing independent Catholic Girls' Preparatory School situated close to the north east corner of Regent's Park.

For further details please contact

The Chairman of the Board of Governors
The Cavendish School
179 Arlington Road, London NW1 7EY
Telephone 0171 485 1958

La Compagnie Générale de Géophysique, entreprise à vocation internationale, est spécialisée dans la prospection pétrolière. Nous recherchons pour notre Département Informatique et Industrialisation, basé au Sud de Paris, un

TRADUCTEUR RÉDACTEUR TECHNIQUE H/F

• Bilingue français •

De langue maternelle anglaise, vous serez chargé de la traduction de documentations de logiciels interactifs. Vous avez de bonnes connaissances générales en géophysique et en informatique (environnement UNIX) associées à d'excellentes qualités rédactionnelles.

Merci d'adresser une lettre manuscrite en français et un CV à CGG, Service du Recrutement, 1 rue Léon Migaux, 91341 Massy Cedex, France.

MEDIAPA

COURSES

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED
CHIROPODY
AS A REDUNDANCY PROOF PROFESSION?

Worried about your future or wanting a change? You can qualify for a rewarding career as a Chiropodist/Podiatrist in the much sought after private sector. You study in your spare time without first leaving your current job and complete your practical training during your holidays. AGE IS NO BARRIER.

- We have successfully trained since 1919, continuously for 77 years, being the oldest training school in the private sector where we are much respected. There is no other body able to match our success rate or methods.
- THE COST? Not expensive for a new career which earns you an excellent life style and respect. With full business procedures for a successful practice.
- Upon qualifying you will be eligible to join the largest and most respected professional body in the private sector, **THE BRITISH CHIROPODY & PODIATRY ASSOCIATION.** See Yellow Pages.
- You may be eligible for a grant for full or part-time courses.

Write or telephone now for FREE Prospectus to:
THE SCHOOL OF CHIROPODY & PODIATRIC MEDICINE
The SMAE Institute, Dept. TT,
The New Hall, 149 Bath Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4LA.
(01628) 21100 (24hrs) or 32449 (9am - 5pm only)

ST JAMES'S COLLEGE

NEXT START DATE
12 February 1996
- 3, 6, & 9 Month Secretarial Courses
- Options in PR, Journalism and Commercial Languages
- Careers Advisory and Placement Service
- 25% Tax Relief Available

4 Wetherby Gardens, London SW5 0JN
Tel: 0171 373 3852
QUALITY AND DISTINCTION IN BUSINESS PRACTICE
A Member of The Corporate Services Group plc

HOME STUDY FOR EVERYONE EVERYWHERE
Over 100 GCSE, A-Level, Professional & Leisure courses.
RAPID RESULTS COLLEGE
Telephone Dept HE312 for free Prospectus:
0181 947 7272

FREELANCE JOURNALISM COURSE
Study from home and make writing a new career or profitable second income.
Free 0800 371 500
MORRIS
COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

GERMAN
LANGUAGE COURSES
at the German Cultural Centre.
GOETHE-INSTITUT
50 Princes Gate on Exhibition Road
London SW7 2PH
Tel: 0171 411 3451
Fax: 0171 581 0974
TERM STARTS 19 FEBRUARY
Enrolment: Non beginners 13 Feb: 16.00-20.00
Enrolment: Beginners 14 Feb: 18.00-20.00

Career training for **GRADUATES**
- 12 wk business career skills & Information Technology course designed to launch your career.
- Options in Marketing, Media, Accounts & Business Languages
- Professional career planning & job placement assistance

Prospectus (01865) 240963
St. Aldates College
Rose Place (4G),
Oxford OX1 1SB

WARDEN required
Bournemouth area, for Slovenian student accommodation. Must be able to communicate fluently in Slovenian and English. Please Reply to Box No 3317

EXPERIENCED GOVERNESS
For 2 children of 10 & 8 years based in Muscat, Oman. Start Sept 96. £1000 per month tax free + 6 weeks holiday per year + 1 return airfare.
Send short C.V to Box No 3436.

All Box number replies should be addressed to:
BOX No:- ____
C/o The Times Newspapers
P.O. BOX 3553,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA

TEACHER
Small friendly Language School near Warsaw needs teacher to start late February. Details on receipt of C.V from Mr. S Frost, 13 Cloutmans Lane, Croyde, Braunton, Devon EX33 1NG

COURSES

VOCATIONAL COURSES
Secretarial - Travel
Hotel Administration
Public Relations & Advertising
Business Management
OXFORD AND COUNTY BUSINESS COLLEGE
Mr Green, 34 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LH
Tel: 01865 310100

EASTER REVISION

SAVOIR FAIRE
TRAINING IN 150 languages
'A' Level / GCSE Weekends, residential Devon
Half term & Easter 3 day intensive residential courses
Two Day language refresher for business executives
Hard work but fun!
Tel: 01803 866987
Fax: 01803 862096

---

d'Overbroeck's
THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGE IN OXFORD
GCSE AND A-LEVEL
EASTER REVISION COURSES
Intensive tuition · Experienced tutors · Fully residential
01865 310000
Member of ISIS · BAC · ISJC

EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD
A LEVEL & GCSE
For a prospectus call:
01865 242670/246119
Cherwell Tutors
Greyfriars
Oxford, OX1 1LD

INTENSIVE EASTER REVISION
Our highly successful courses offer small group and 1-1 tuition in study and exam skills as well as most 'A' level and GCSE syllabuses.
EXPERIENCED TUTORS WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS
Surrey College
CALL (01483) 565887/300057
St Michael's House, [illegible] Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4PP

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE
The prime location for ITALIAN and ART HISTORY.
Regular 2 or 4 week courses and art history 'mini-breaks'.
Lungarno Guicciardini 9
50125 Firenze, Italy
Tel: 0039 55 284031
Fax: 0039 55 289557

EXAM TECHNIQUES
St Margarets
Easter Revision
at Oxford University
- 'A' Level / GCSE-most subjs
- A,B or C grades guaranteed !
- Examiners predict questions
- Intensive small group tuition
- Also at Birmingham, Cardiff M'chester & Newcastle Univs

Prospectus: Senior Tutor, Gorrards Hall, Northleigh, Oxford. OX8 6PU
(01865) 880141 or (01993) 882292 24 hrs

EASTER FRENCH REVISION COURSES
(A & GCSE Levels)
are being run by Ashdown House in their beautiful Chateau du Livet, St Germain-le-Vasson Calvados.
April 9th-14th
- Full programme of revision work
- Visits to places of local interest
- Board lodging & travel included in cost
- Supervised by experienced boarding school staff

All in cost £250. Few places left.
Contact Mr & Mrs M V C Williams 01342 822574 or write to: Ashdown House, Forest Row RH18 5JY.

SEDBERGH SCHOOL
G.C.S.E & 'A' Level - Intensive Revision Courses
31st March - 5th April and 7th April - 12th April 1996
Further details from:
Susan Garnett, Course Director,
Sedbergh School, Sedbergh Cumbria LA10 5HG
Tel: 015396 20303 Fax:015396 22206
Sedbergh is a Registered Charity dedicated to Charity: Number 529699.

A Level, GCSE, A/S Levels
1 year, 2 year & Resit Courses
Easter Revision
Ashbourne Independent Sixth Form College
17 Old Court Place, London W8 4PL 0171-937 3858
CIFE
Ashbourne

FRENCH 'A' LEVEL REVISION IN BORDEAUX
Plus gap & summer programmes
Easter & summer courses geared specifically to 1st & 2nd yr A level students. Exam technique, written, grammar, oral.
International summer school in Bergerac for 13-17 yr olds. Gap year at a French Lycée 1,2 or 3 terms.
Challenge Educational Services, 101 Lorna Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 3EL
Tel: 01273 220261

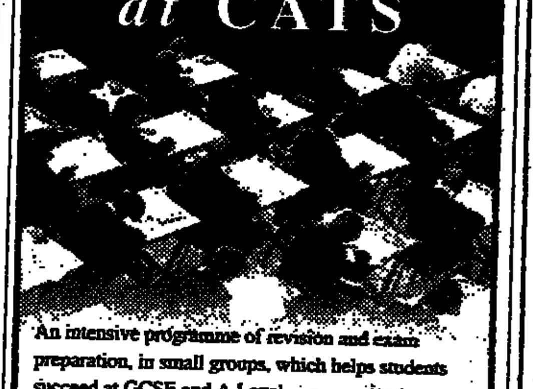
EASTER REVISION
with the
CHIEF EXAMINERS!
21st
To find out more about our intensive Easter Revision & one & two year Courses, phone:
0171-581 3307
LANSDOWNE
INDEPENDENT SIXTH FORM COLLEGE · KENSINGTON
The Learning Edge

EASTER REVISION
MPW
Mander Portman Woodward
Independent Sixth-Form Colleges

MPW is offering A level and GCSE revision courses during the Easter Holidays. Tuition takes place in small groups or individually. A level courses in London are exam board specific. Accommodation is available in Birmingham, Bristol and Cambridge.

MPW (London) Arts
Tel: 0171 835 1355
MPW (London) Sciences
Tel: 0171 584 8555
MPW (Birmingham)
Tel: 0121 454 9637
MPW (Cambridge)
Tel: 0122 335 0158
MPW (Bristol)
Tel: 0117 925 5688

EASTER REVISION *at* CATS



An intensive programme of revision and exam preparation, in small groups, which helps students succeed at GCSE and A Level.

Tel: 01223 314431
Cambridge Arts & Sciences
Round Church Street
Cambridge CB5 8AD

FOR HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS
Choose a CIFE *College*

Also EASTER REVISION

LONDON		
Croydon	**Cambridge Tutors**	0181 688 5284
Golders Green	**The Tuition Centre**	0181 201 8020
Hendon	**Albany**	0181 202 5965
Holborn	**Davies's**	0171 430 1622
Kensal Green	**Bales**	0181 960 5899
Kensington	**Ashbourne**	0171 937 3858
Kensington	**Collingham**	0171 244 7414
Kensington	**Lansdowne**	0171 581 3307
Kensington	**MPW**	0171 584 8555
REGIONAL		
Birmingham	**MPW**	0121 454 9637
Bristol	**MPW**	0117 925 5688
Cambridge	**CCSS**	01223 316890
Cambridge	**MPW**	01223 350 158
Harrogate	**Harrogate Tutorial**	01423 501041
Hove	**Bellerbys**	01273 723911
Market Harborough	**Brooke House**	01858 462452
Oxford	**Cherwell**	01865 242670
Oxford	**Modes**	01865 245172
Oxford	**Oxford Tutorial**	01865 793333
Rochester	**Rochester Tutors**	01634 828115

THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SIXTH FORM AND TUTORIAL COLLEGES

MAKE THE GRADE
'A' LEVEL & G.C.S.E. EASTER REVISION
Oxford Tutorial College
16 Gloucester Street
Oxford OX1 2BN
Tel. (01865) 793333
Fax (01865) 793233

ACHIEVE BETTER GRADES AT MILLFIELD
A & GCSE
A Level & GCSE Easter Revision School
Our world-famous Independent School specialises in small group teaching with superb facilities at affordable prices.
To discuss your requirements and to find how we can help you towards better grades...
Write to Dept. FT, Millfield Easter Revision School, Millfield School, Street, Somerset BA16 0YD
TEL: 01458 445823
FAX: 01458 840584

TAKE THE STRAIN OUT OF 'A' LEVEL & GCSE REVISION

AN INTENSIVE REVISION COURSE DURING THE SCHOOL EASTER HOLIDAY IS THE ONLY ANSWER

JUSTIN CRAIG EDUCATION have helped thousands of students achieve their required grades for the last 15 years

☑ Motivation & Confidence Booster
Key Topics in Small Class Groups
Enthusiastic Tutors & Examiners
5/10 Days Residential or Daily

COURSES IN: WARE - HERTFORD - NW LONDON BIRMINGHAM - YORK - HARROGATE - RICKMANSWORTH
Guaranteed pass grades or a free retake course
01727 827000
JUSTIN CRAIG EDUCATION, Craig House, Dept 2 15 High St., Colney Heath, Herts, AL4 0NS

ABBEY TUTORIAL COLLEGE

BIRMINGHAM
All Subjects
0121 236 7474

CAMBRIDGE
Maths & Sciences
01223 328686

LONDON
Maths & Sciences
0171 229 5928

MANCHESTER
All Subjects
0161 236 6836

A Level & GCSE
EASTER REVISION
Accommodation available

SCHOOL THE BIG QUESTION
CIFE
CONFERENCE for INDEPENDENT FURTHER EDUCATION
- *Changing school after GCSEs?*
- *Unhappy about your current A Level course?*
- *Need Easter revision for GCSEs or A Levels?*
- *Want a summer course to bolster you for the coming academic year?*

THEN THINK CIFE
For objective help and advice, or for referrals to a college which could suit you...
PHONE NOW 01233 820797
CIFE THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INDEPENDENT SIXTH FORM COLLEGES with exam results audited by the British Accreditation Council

---

DAVIES LAING & DICK

EASTER REVISION at DLD

A comprehensive range of courses at A level and GCSE

Over 60 years of success

0171 727 2797

10 Pembridge Square, London W2 4ED

DAVIES'S
COLLEGE

One Week Courses
- A level and GCSE
- Lower VI and Upper VI Modules
- Half & Full day courses
- Accommodation

To reserve a place ring
0171 430 1622
Holborn, London

¡Español en España!
your Spanish course for tomorrow
✓ Study in Salamanca, Barcelona, Granada and Málaga
✓ 2-weeks to 9 months *(all levels - all year)*
✓ Variety of courses including: Business, Tourism & Secretarial
✓ Host family or Student flat accommodation available

Call today for a **FREE INFO PACK**
Tel: 0181 786 8081 *or Fax:* 0181 786 8086
don Quijote UK, P.O. Box 218, Surrey KT19 0YF
don Quijote UK

EASTER REVISION
SUMMER RESULTS
•GCSE Specialists.
•A-level Maths & Science.
•Help with Exam Stress.
DUFF MILLER
59 Queensgate London SW7 5JP
Tel: 0171 225 0577

EDUCATION

Why our universities have been driven to revolt

Peter Scott

explains the crisis behind plans for a £300 levy on students

SIMON WALKER

The parents of these sixth-formers in Islington, north London, may be among the first to pay a £300 levy

The universities are revolting. Today, the vice-chancellors will decide whether to charge new students an emergency levy of £300, as a preliminary to making all students pay for higher education. Also this week, the Association of University Teachers circulated to its entire membership a warning of gloom and doom and asked for concrete examples of the damage being caused by government cuts.

Their revolt has taken even the universities by surprise. The spark was the autumn Budget. The vice-chancellors, perhaps naively, had hoped for a broadly neutral outcome, even for a modest pre-election boost. In the event, the higher education budget was cut — recurrent funding broadly in line with the Higher Education Funding Council for England's private expectations, and capital expenditure slashed savagely.

The Private Finance Initiative, of course, was invoked as an alternative way to renew universities' and colleges' crumbling plant, but no one was deceived about the initiative's irrelevance in a flat property market. The vice-chancellors were shocked. So, too, was the academic community.

Former polytechnics felt equally betrayed. Buoyed up by their elevation to university status in 1992, just three years later they have been let down with a bump. Two new factors explain the universities' radical disenchantment. First, the limits of efficiency gains are being reached. In the past decade higher education has improved its productivity by more than a quarter. But this cannot continue without a radical change in the nature of higher education. We are trying to provide an elite system at mass-market prices.

Secondly, expansion has ground to a halt. When the Government first announced the new policy of "consolidation" three years ago, it seemed a temporary pause for breath. In the past 12 months it has become clear that growth will not resume before the end of the century. Also, there appears to be an alarming shortfall in student demand, which justifies the Government's policy (although sorting out cause and effect is difficult), but makes things even worse for universities because they risk losing money if they fail to fill their places.

The impact of the end-of-growth has been profound. In cash terms, universities could live with plunging unit costs, the income they receive per student, so long as their actual budgets grew because more students were being enrolled. Now some find themselves dangerously over-extended, and all have had their room for financial manoeuvre radically curtailed. In psychological terms, growth buoyed the system up. It was tough — higher workloads and more pressure to publish — but it was worth it so long as a new higher education for a new Britain was being built. Now that optimism too has been punctured.

The vice-chancellors' decision to impose a levy — the proposal is likely to be approved if only because there seems to be no alternative — is a cry of anger and pain. Their message is "enough is enough". Their hope that in a pre-election year the Government, more interested in cash-backs (as to electricity consumers) than new demands on tax-resistant voters, will be alarmed by the prospect of perhaps half a million predominantly middle-class parents receiving an unexpected bill for £300 from October 1997.

Perhaps the threat alone will be sufficient. Certainly if it has to be carried out there will be difficulties. How many universities will reject the levy on principled grounds? How many, faced with a tight recruitment market, will waive it? How many students, or their parents, will adopt the can't-pay-won't-pay tactic so successfully employed in the poll tax crisis. Will there be legal challenges?

The Government, for reverse (perverse?) reasons, has condemned the proposal. For several years ministers have nodded indulgently at the anguished attempts by some vice-chancellors to persuade their colleagues to agree to charge top-up fees. Now, when it looks as if the vice-chancellors have screwed up their courage to the sticking point, ministers have gone into reverse. Universities and colleges, they now say, have sufficient resources provided they manage them sensibly.

The curious outcome is that most vice-chancellors probably support the levy, although many still have doubts about charging top-up fees on a permanent basis. With the Government it is the other way round. Ministers are absolutely opposed to the emergency levy, for straightforward electoral reasons, but keen to see the long-term burden for providing higher education transferred from taxpayers to "customers", that is, students and their parents.

Both sides are being unrealistic. The vice-chancellors have a short-term strategy, to keep the political pressure on the Government. But the countervailing pressures on ministers, to deliver tax cuts while not harming too publicly frontline services in schools, housing or social services, are much more powerful.

The vice-chancellors still lack a genuine long-term strategy. Ostensibly it is to campaign for the introduction of income-contingent loans to cover tuition as well as student maintenance. Under this scheme the Government puts more money for higher education up front and students pay it back sometime or never. The scheme does not appeal to the Treasury. Those vice-chancellors who are committed to the principle of public funding of higher education know this, which is why they are prepared to go along with income-contingent loans. They know they are never going to happen.

Our present unsatisfactory and inequitable student loans system and year-on-year efficiency gains are holding down costs nicely. The only kind of "alternative" funding that ministers will accept is a system that produces immediate and substantial savings — which is the last thing vice-chancellors want. Their greatest fear is a scenario in which the success of top-up fees enables the Government to cut its contribution. An unbridgeable gap: vice-chancellors see alternative funding as supplementary to existing grants; ministers as substituting for public expenditure.

But the Government is being equally naive and shortsighted. Universities with disaffected leaders, stressed staff, ageing equipment and crumbling buildings overflowing with students, cannot play their part in building a new Britain. The "other government" led by Michael Heseltine, with its mantras about competitiveness and technology foresight, affects to believe that universities are key institutions in enhancing our national wellbeing. If this is more than rhetoric it must mean that somewhere in the depths of Whitehall the case for investing in higher education is acknowledged. The vice-chancellors' task is to unlock this secret support.

● *The author is director of the Centre for Policy Studies in Education at the University of Leeds.*

The elite of Oxford — but do they put off many pupils?

Oxbridge doors 'should be opened wider'

Our ancient centres of learning are not doing enough to admit state school pupils

The recent debate on elitism in state-financed education has centred on the grammar schools, but I also have concerns about Oxford and Cambridge.

As a Cambridge graduate I am convinced that outstanding centres of tertiary education, by no means only Oxford and Cambridge, are essential in this very competitive world. But if they receive public money, they should be equally accessible to pupils of exceptional talent regardless of background.

Oxford and Cambridge take a disproportionately large number of candidates from the independent sector. Why? There are many issues and many colleges are determinedly seeking to redress the balance.

Selection is essentially imperfect, and this had led us at the Henrietta Barnett School to examine carefully both our entrance examination and interview procedure. We are a multi-ethnic, multi-faith community and one third of our pupils are bilingual. No faith or ethnic group dominates. We constantly question how we can give equal opportunities to our candidates and how we can identify real potential, rather than achievement gained through a stultifying coaching regime.

The intentions of Oxford and Cambridge to widen their intake are clear, as such schemes as the "Target Schools" demonstrate. But these intentions are not always confirmed by candidates' experiences at interview. Last year I wrote an open letter to all colleges to which our girls had applied. I had helpful feedback from many colleges and yet I continue to hear disturbing reports from my pupils.

"The interviewer kept interrupting the interview to arrange some Christmas event."

"He was reading *The Guardian* when I arrived and had not read my application form."

"The two interviewers were more interested in scoring academic points off each other and gave me little opportunity to speak for myself."

A girl who had had a debilitating and depressing illness was asked whether she thought she would take to drink and drugs at university.

A Muslim girl in a headscarf was asked where she came from and what her parents (shopkeepers) did for a living.

I know that the comments above are only the perceptions of the candidates, but for the often less confident state school pupil the experience can be destructive. It should be possible to interview in such a way that a candidate feels that she has had the opportunity to be assessed fairly, and rejection is not then to be regarded as negative. Letters sent to me by colleges with individual comments are very much appreciated.

My current A-level pupils achieved outstanding GCSE results, attracting much national publicity. Some of our most able would not consider Oxford and Cambridge and some of those returning from interviews have confirmed the prejudices of my students. The college that sent a friendly welcoming letter to a student going for interview, setting out clearly what was expected as regards dress, topics likely to be covered and the procedure to be followed, is still an exception.

All colleges should take seriously the disproportionate intake of state school pupils and consider the image they are giving. An interview is a two-way process. Stories such as those above circulate in schools and do much harm.

It was suggested to me by an admissions tutor that many Cambridge colleges are not places for a quiet or self-effacing pupil, however bright. The interview techniques described above confirm this, and Cambridge is the loser.

JANE DE SWIET

● *The author is head teacher of the Henrietta Barnett School, a selective girls' school in north London.*

Learning the tricks of the exam trade

How to make the most of an Easter tutorial college

Students hoping for Easter miracles from a tutorial college revision programme are being advised to be more realistic about their aims.

Two years of study will not be magically delivered in a week-long course, but the techniques taught can make grades of difference to the A-level candidate. One of the key benefits of a revision course is the way it can help to refine study skills and ensure that the work already done by sixth-formers is put to optimum use.

Elizabeth Rickards, co-principal at Davies, Laing & Dick, one of the leading tutorial colleges, says: "The most common reason in our experience why students underachieve in exams is because they do not know what the examiner wants. They have no experience of seeing what an A-grade answer looks like, and even if they do know, they just have not practised enough the theory of good exam performance.

"Easter revision courses focus on teaching students how to revise effectively. Many young people disappear off to their rooms as the exams draw near, but are they actually working up there? Are they covering all the material? Are they revising topics they like and are good at, but ignoring those topics which actually need more attention?"

She says that students of A-level mathematics were notorious at sticking to "soft" topics to revise if left to their own devices.

"Easter revision courses teach you to treat the whole business of exams in an efficient and professional manner. You learn to stop feeling overwhelmed by the whole exam ordeal and you become motivated to get down to work."

The fact that parents are digging deep to aid the candidate's chances must be an incentive. A week's course costs £300 to £400 on average, but demystifying the A-level process is part of a good revision college's role. Ms Rickards feels that "the first and most important aspect of motivating students is to make them realise that they can be successful. You do not have to be Einstein to get good grades at A level but you do have to be thorough and organised, and you need to know what the examiner is looking for."

The techniques taught can make grades of difference to A-level pupils

Finding a course to suit your needs is becoming ever more difficult, however, with a growth in "seasonal" colleges which emerge only at Easter. They are not necessarily to be avoided because the more reputable use experienced classroom teachers available only during the Easter break.

But the 32-college Conference for Independent Further Education (CIFE) counsels caution. Myles Glover, the organisation's secretary, says: "On the whole the mushrooming of the seasonal providers is not good news for the public. All of our colleges are established and run courses the whole year and they have a core of permanent full-time staff, giving stability. The danger of seasonal providers is that they simply come into the market and are effectively brokers between freelance tutors and parents."

The independent consultancy, Gabbitas, also advises parents to do their own homework on colleges before parting with the average £350 for a week's revision.

Wendy Johnson of Gabbitas says: "Our advisers have noticed an increase in the numbers setting up just for Easter. Parents ought to find out what system there is of comeback or guarantee of standards." She advises parents to ask for details of past parents and students the organisation has taught, so that they can be quizzed about its service.

DAVID CHARTER

● *To check whether a college is a member of CIFE, contact it on 01233 820797.*

Are we getting value for our money from Ofsted?

Time to inspect the inspector

On Monday, Chris Woodhead, the Senior Chief Inspector of Schools, will pronounce on the performance of state education over the past year. But what sort of value did the taxpayer get for the £67 million spent by Ofsted, the agency he heads?

The inspection system has been scrutinised in a report for CfBT Education Services, Ofsted's largest contractor. This is not, perhaps, the most impartial source, since CfBT presumably wants to remain in business, but the judgments are creditably objective. A key proposal, to move to a ten-year inspection cycle, for example, is certainly not in the organisation's interests.

The author of the study is Mike Douse, who ran Australia's Disadvantaged Schools Programme in the 1970s and now advises governments all over the world. Not previously acquainted with the Ofsted system, his verdict in the agency's jargon might be "sound but with important weaknesses".

Some of the report's criticisms are mildly coded, as Ofsted's often are. But most do not take much reading between the lines. A call for the agency to be "ideologically objective and also manifestly appearing so", for example, will be seen as a barely disguised reference to Mr Woodhead's more controversial outpourings.

However, the main criticisms, which would find an echo in schools up and down the country, are that the process is too negative and mechanistic. The framework under which inspectors operate is to alter in April, addressing some of Mr Douse's concerns, but the present reliance on checklists and pseudo-scientific analysis is a common source of disquiet.

Ofsted's approach is both some guarantee of consistency among the disparate teams and a defence against charges of unfairness, but it is also a straitjacket preventing inspectors from making constructive comments. The report urges that, as inspection gains acceptance, qualitative impressions should be encouraged. "By such means, inspection should come to encourage high-quality diversity rather than to reward mere conformity."

Chris Woodhead: outspoken

Mr Douse concludes that Ofsted has justified its existence, but the process should move from a "penal cum archival" approach to one that focuses more on helping schools to improve. He believes that too much emphasis is placed on identifying failure and not enough on steering teachers towards effective practice elsewhere.

The sentiments are echoed in a second report on inspection published this week by the National Union of Teachers. Professor John MacBeath, of Strathclyde University, argues that the Scottish system, with its emphasis on self-evaluation, produces a more frank and accurate assessment of schools' real strengths and weaknesses.

Both reports want schools to be judged against national standards, but express doubts about the way they are measured at present. Mr Douse says that some Ofsted statistics are "dangerously misleading" and suggests using socio-economic indicators as well as examination results to set targets for improvement, which would trigger a full inspection if they were not met.

He also finds that while Ofsted reports may be meaningful to the professionals, the same cannot be said of parents, who are marginalised under the current arrangements. The report says that the summary reports provided to parents achieve little, and many head teachers "massage the inspectors' messages through highly selective media releases and letters to parents".

However, Mr Douse is generally impressed by the integrity of all sides concerned with inspection. "Many of them are sceptical — even cynical — regarding the process; and frequently they mistrust one another. But there is a general sense of just about everyone attempting to make the existing arrangements operate as well as possible, while still reserving the right to comment and the ability to dream. Whatever else it may have done, Ofsted has certainly helped to stimulate a widespread, fascinating and, in my view, potentially valuable national educational debate."

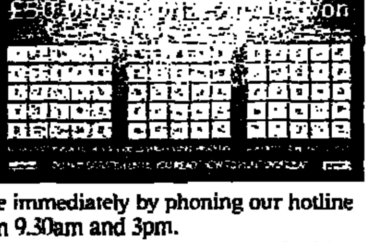
JOHN O'LEARY

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FREE VIRGIN FLIGHTS AND STORE VOUCHERS

Win prizes worth £50,000

This is Game 2 in our exciting new scratchcard game. Scratch off the numbers below on your Game 2 grid.

HOW TO WIN A PRIZE



If you reveal five identical symbols, for example five pairs of sunglasses, on your Game 2 grid any day this week, you will win a free flight for two with Virgin Atlantic. On the day you get your fifth symbol, you must claim your prize immediately by phoning our hotline 0171-867 0406 between 9.30am and 3pm.

If you reveal one CD symbol on your Game 2 grid this week, you will win a £5 Virgin Store voucher and must claim your prize the same day by phoning our Accumulator hotline 0171-867 0400 between 9.30-3pm.

Late claims will not be accepted for any of the prizes.

Full details of how to play are on the card which you should have received with your newspaper last week.

If you did not get a card, please call: 0171-782 7155 between 9.30am-5pm.

You can also play our scratchcard game on the Internet. Simply call up the Web site (two addresses for *The Times* and Virgin are on your card). The numbers you should scratch off, which are different from those in the newspaper, will appear on your screens.

ACCUMULATOR PRIZE WINNERS

Wednesday's flight winners: Mr G Rayworth of west London; Mrs A Thorpe of Harpenden, Herts; Mr J Turner of Liverpool and Mr D Orpwood of Kingston, Surrey.

THESE ARE THE GAME 2 NUMBERS YOU SHOULD SCRATCH OFF YOUR CARD TODAY 45 28

مكنا من الاحطاء

Young disciples would cherish a game fit for heroes

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

As Wales prepare for Twickenham, **Gerald Davies** says beating England is still important

Walk along a piece of common land in Wales in summer and there you will find small boys playing cricket. Listen and you will hear that they imagine themselves as England, even in these difficult cricketing times, playing a Test against Australia or West Indies. Playing for higher international stakes, they might for the moment ignore Glamorgan. Atherton's name will be on every schoolboy's lips as each, in his mind's eye, thinks himself to be the England captain at the crease.

Across in the playground of the school, a football game may be in progress, of the spontaneous type where pullovers form the goalposts and no adult dares interfere. Listen closely to their shouts and the running commentary and Manchester United will be playing Liverpool or Chelsea. There will be no sign of Cardiff or Wrexham. The clamour will be to be Giggs, Rush and Hughes just as much as for Cantona and Schmeichel. Premiership, top of the league stuff, is what matters. Hero worship is a fine thing.

A child's mind a kingdom is. Willy-nilly he will happily cross boundaries without favour; but not always. Not in rugby.

Behind the goalposts in Bala or Llangennech, schoolboys will strike eternal attitudes. Wales will forever be playing England and, unlike the other sports, there will be no takers this time for England. Rugby is Wales.

Wales may languish, as some say, in the third division of world rugby, whereas England are at the top of the first along with South Africa, New Zealand and France. However tarnished the Wales jersey may have become of late, the boys in the village game will always aspire to wear it and conspire in the park that Wales always win. For these youngsters' heroes are born still to play rugby in Wales.

A Welshman will freely admit, as Arwel Thomas did last weekend, that, for him, England are the team to beat. England may not care to admit as much, be more reticent, reserved or wishing to effect a cool disinterest in these matters, but, come the moment when the whistle blows, they will feel the same, too, down at the clubhouses of Saracens and Wasps.

Thomas plays against England for the first time tomorrow, but he will, in his mind's eye, have done so innumerable times before on Trebanos's spare patch. He will have imagined great games of ebb and flow, of attack and counter-attack, of thrust and parry and the match will have been won and lost, amid a crescendo of excitement, in the dying minutes with a kick or great try.

The truth, sadly, falls far short of this, for the matches have hardly been ones to inspire. Games between the countries lead to tension and inevitably demand much of a man's nerves; but they are of the teeth-gritting, jaw-jutting kind. There is, finally, no prodigious skill as events unfold, only a stomach for endurance and defiance. Of all the five nations' championship games, it is the one with the awkward habit of letting us down the most.

If there are moments of enlightenment, they are few. Underwood's 80-yard sprint or Carling's try in 1990; Evans's match-winner in 1993 or Hadley's score after Clement's counter-attack in 1988. We may choose to remember Rob Andrew's immaculate goalkicking in 1986 or Robert Jones's tactical kicks in 1989. Regrettably, there are matches that are unmemorable for the bland quality of rugby.

Often, the fixture is remembered for the wrong reasons. There is the enduring image of Geoff Wheel and Bill Beaumont in a confrontational stare and snarl in 1980, when Paul Ringer became only the second player ever to have been sent off in an international at Twickenham. We may forget Dusty Hare's calm precision in delivering the final penalty goal that led England to that year's grand slam.

That the fixture has the capacity to diminish players was manifest in the bitterness that overflowed into violence at the Arms Park in 1987. Players carry the baggage of the past and cannot cope with it; as, indeed, does the spectator, who is too loud in his grievances or exaggerated celebrations.

It remains a great fixture, but one that, by now, deserves a better outcome. Of late, Wales have been out of sorts, too frayed at the edges to make this come about. England have had too much of their own way to make the game a proper contest. If the Welsh wag of the Seventies queried whether it was worth continuing the fixture, so can England question that now. The ball is in Wales's court.

More than that, it is high time that we had a game of greatness — and for new heroes to be born — especially in Wales. There is much need of them.

Jones, one of a young breed of Wales players who display the eagerness to conjure up the stuff of Welsh legend. Photograph: Huw Evans

Doctor's son displays supportive touch

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE they have sat this season in their pristine Wales blazers, the international class of 1996, fresh morning faces shining with pride and hope. Features are neutralised by the close-cropped hair styles favoured by the young, but there is no mistaking Arwel Thomas — he is so slim and small that he can only be the stand-off half.

The bigger one who looks as though he might be the new back-row forward turns out to be Leigh Davies, the Neath centre, at 19 the youngest of the breed who have sprung to prominence for Wales, virtually unknown beyond their own border. So heavy is the investment in youth that ten of the side that meet England tomorrow will be playing their first international at Twickenham.

This is a generation that grew up knowing Wales in the 1980s and 1990s struggling, despite the 1994 championship title, to swim with the tide. Davies was two when a grand slam was last won and only 12 when there was the by-now rare pleasure of a triple crown, in 1988. Not for them memories of the dashing Gareth Edwards, the darting Phil Bennett — they can create their own legends.

Among the new boys is Rhodri Gwyn Jones. The open-side flanker is the key to the way in which Wales will approach the championship. When Kevin Bowring announced his XV to play Italy last month, he described his style as based on an open-side who could support his back line and ensure continuity. Ensure, too, that Wales do not get dragged into a dogfight that they cannot win against bigger, heavier forwards.

Jones, now 23, says that he became a flanker by accident. Trailing after Rhys, his older brother, to the village club at Loughor, between Swansea and Llanelli, he wanted to join in; at the age of eight, he knew none of the backs so joined his brother in the forwards and was so small that he was relegated to the flank.

It was, though, in the blood: his father, uncles, great uncles were all back-row forwards. "He has a very good pedigree, he was an exceptional schoolboy player," Gareth Jenkins, now his coach at Llanelli and formerly assistant to the national team, said. Educated at Llandovery College, one of the great Welsh rugby nurseries, Jones captained the Wales under-15 team, then played in the under-18, under-19 and under-21 teams.

Welsh on their guard 40

An A cap followed against Canada, but, in 1994, a string of injuries retarded his progress; at much the same time, however, Llanelli lost a host of high quality back-row forwards and Jones stepped into one of the gaps that Lyn Jones's departure created.

"I'm not blisteringly quick, but it has more to do with anticipation than actual speed," Jones said. "If your angles are good and there's good communication with the backs, you can get there a bit before the opposition."

Jones, whose father is a doctor, is a fourth-year student at the University of Wales College of Medicine. Examinations limited his rugby before Christmas and he was surprised to be called into an extended national squad.

"It will be difficult to combine medicine with rugby, but I have to get my degree," Jones said. "Anything can happen with injuries and rugby only lasts into the 30s."

At 6ft, he is out of the Josh Kronfeld school of flankers, a specialist, ball-handling, support player. "His progress depended upon whether he could develop more power and strength in his game," Jenkins said. "He worked at weights to push himself towards 15st and, at the start of this season, I recognised that, if Llanelli were going to be successful, we had to play a game around our No 7.

"What players like Lyn and Gwyn have is uncoachable. It's instinctive. Rugby is more than a game where you hit people over, get up and do it again. Many people play with heart and soul and passion, but, when you have an important function in the side, you also have the responsibility of understanding it. Gwyn has that and it makes him captaincy material."

For the moment, Twickenham and a second cap loom. "England will attack close to Arwel [Thomas] and me, and we will have to contain them," Jones said. "That will be the crux of the match, if we can stop their back row." If they do, and if the Wales backs can catch fire, then maybe the stuff of Welsh legend will not seem so far distant after all.

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 9994

EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

COURSES

Kensington Park School
FOUNDED 1988
An Independent Secondary Day
School for boys and girls
Principal: Richard Walker BSc CChem MRSC PGCE
071-221 5748
10 Pembridge Square London W2 4ED

EDUCATION

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
1996 FORTHCOMING
EDUCATION
FEATURES
EASTER REVISION COURSES
Every Friday February
Every Sunday February
DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES
Friday 09th February
Sunday 11th February
POSTGRADUATE COURSES
Friday 23rd February (Supplement)
Sunday 25th February
INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
Friday 23rd February
SUMMER SCHOOLS
Friday 8th March
Sunday 10th March
MBA / BUSINESS COURSES
Friday 15th March
Sunday 17th March
For further information about these features or to advertise please contact Simon Mallinson.
Tel: 0171 782 7315
Fax: 0171 782 7899

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION

A key post in a large, dynamic Further Education College (annual expenditure c.£14 million). This post will be at deputy level to the Principal.
Salary c.£43,000.
As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all sections of the community.
For details of this post, ring our Personnel Unit on (01785) 223800 extension 12 (24 hour service).
Closing date for receipt of applications:
23rd February, 1996.
Stafford COLLEGE

COURSES

A JOB FOR LIFE
£9 to £12 an hour from home
After a few weeks' study you could be a freelance proofreader or copy editor. Freelancers work on books for many leading publishers. Chapterhouse's courses are well respected and you are assigned an experienced tutor who assesses your work. All courses advise on marketing and are certificated. Cost is from £49. Prospectus from: CHAPTERHOUSE, 2 Southernhay West, Exeter, EX1 1JG, Tel: 01392 499488

Cheltenham College
Where next after GCSE?
- Sixth form scholarships and entrance for boys and girls, 1996 entry.
- Twenty offers to Oxford and Cambridge colleges this year.
- Twenty-five subjects offered at A or AS level.

Examinations will take place on Friday, 8th and Saturday, 9th March 1996.
Entry Closure date: Thursday, 29 February 1996.
For further information, please contact:
The Registrar,
Cheltenham College,
Bath Road,
Cheltenham, GL53 7LD.
Tel: (01242) 513540 Fax: (01242) 577746
Cheltenham College is a registered charity which exists solely to provide educational facilities.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER
MBAPDQRSVP
Courses starting February and October
Our unique portfolio of MBA programmes reflects changes in the business world and aims to meet the management training needs of national and multinational organisations.
Master of Business Administration
This one year full-time programme, based at our new Harrow Campus takes a generalist approach to management and places emphasis on information technology preparing you for a career as a senior manager. We also offer a February start on our part-time MBA based in the West End.
MBA/DESCM
Prepare for a senior management position in the European Union and beyond. You will gain an MBA and a French masters qualification through a year of full-time study spending six months in London and six months at a leading French management school, the Ecole Superieure de Commerce at Montpellier.
MBA (Design Management)
If you are working in product development, design or marketing, improve your management potential by joining this unique programme that allows you to continue in employment by combining distance learning with intensive four day workshops.
Contact the Faculty Office, Faculty of Business, Management and Social Studies, Harrow Campus, University of Westminster, Watford Road, Northwick Park, Harrow HA1 3TP. Telephone 0171 911 5000. Email pricec@wmin.ac.uk WWW http://www.wmin.ac.uk.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL ?
Which School? 1996
The 71st edition of the comprehensive directory of Independent schools throughout the UK.
Complete with free quick-reference computer disk.
Available from leading bookshops or direct from the publishers.
Price £8.95 plus postage ISBN 1-869863-83-6
John Catt Educational Ltd
Great Glemham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2DH
Tel: 01728 663666 Fax: 01728 663415

COURSES

Applications are invited for the position of:
Marketing Consultant
to an established publishing firm specialising in the promotion, marketing and public relations for independent schools.
For further details please contact Alison Collett on 01728 663666.

COURSES

FRENCH UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES
Academic year and Semester language programmes at French universities for 1996/97.
SORBONNE- Paris, Toulouse, Nantes, Poitiers
Ideal gap year/post grad opportunity.
Summer programmes from 3-8 weeks duration.
Intensive, General & Business French.
Various year round courses in Bordeaux & on Côte d'Azur.
Challenge Educational Services
101 Lorna Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 3EL.
Tel: 01273 220261

Trust the Specialist
Recognized by the French Government
LEARN FRENCH IN FRANCE
PARIS - BORDEAUX - NICE...
CENTRE FRANÇAIS DE LONDRES
For your free Brochure, call 0171 734 7224

Learn a Language on Location!
French • German • Spanish
Italian • Russian • Chinese
A-level revision and general language courses in 9 centres
CALL NOW FOR A BROCHURE ON
0171 795 6675
EF

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
By Open Learning
This stimulating and practical programme enables and empowers managers to develop their potential as ***proactive, responsive*** and ***responsible*** individuals.
- Based on action learning
- Develops mastery in its widest sense
- At the frontier of theory and practice
- Commitment to excellence and quality
- Supports development of learning organisations
- Develops flexibility, adaptability and innovation
- Monthly half-day workshops and residential periods
- Informal evening workshops also offered
- Access to unlimited counselling and tutorial support
- Facilitates transfer of learning from individual to organisation
- Selected modules available as short courses

Certificate and Diploma Programmes also available
Further information can be obtained from: The Management Unit, The University of Reading, Building L22, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. Telephone: (01734) 318180, Fax: (01734) 316539. E-mail: Mgt-Unit@reading.ac.uk. URL http://www.rdg.ac.uk/MGT.
THE UNIVERSITY OF READING
Management Unit

SCHOLARSHIPS

THE SAVOY EDUCATIONAL TRUST
"A CAREER IN HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS"
The trustees invite applications for the 1996 Reeves-Smith Scholarships (value £4,000 each) from young people in their final year taking 'A' levels and intending to train for a hotel career.
Applications to:
Martin B. Radcliffe,
1 Savoy Hill, London, WC2R 0BP.
Reg. for the purposes of education under Charity No. 31763.

FORGET EASTER REVISION!
THIS IS BETTER
UNIQUE NEW APPROACH TO PASSING 'A' LEVELS & GCSE'S
ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS WITH CHIEF EXAMINERS INC. PROFESSIONALLY ASSESSED MOCK EXAMS
FROM ONLY £37.50
London & Manchester, through the Easter Holidays
0171-581 4866
exam express

Late decision on Monsieur Le Cure's running plans

Edwards delays Irish venture

By Julian Muscat

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Monsieur Le Cure looks across the water, although Edwards has yet to confirm whether he will run at Leopardstown

MONSIEUR LE CURE'S participation in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday is going to the wire, despite the bleak prospect of racing at Sandown tomorrow, when the horse is also engaged.

John Edwards, who trains Monsieur Le Cure, is keen to take advantage of milder conditions in Ireland. But Hector Brown, who owns the ten-year-old chaser, has yet to sanction the plan. "He wants to leave it to the last minute," Edwards said yesterday.

The Leopardstown race represents one of the last opportunities for Cheltenham Gold Cup aspirants to compete outside handicap company. Master Oats and Jodami, the latter looking to win the prize for the fourth year running, are to represent Britain but the most interesting horse in the race is Imperial Call.

Trained in Co Cork by Fergus Sutherland, Imperial Call tackles three miles for the first time after featuring prominently over shorter trips in top-class company. All week, the seven-year-old has been backed with Ladbrokes to make his mark.

Imperial Call's last outing saw him take the scalp of Strong Platinum, second favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, over 2¾ miles at Leopardstown three weeks ago. Doubtless Imperial Call was helped by a 12lb weight advantage that day, but his pedigree suggests he will improve for covering a distance of ground.

He should, theoretically, stay three miles with ease, although these are anxious times for Sutherland's stable. Imperial Call is one of half a dozen horses owned by Lisselan Farms Ltd, the offshoot of a marketing company which recently advertised all its horses for sale. Already, there has been considerable interest, but victory on Sunday would surely trigger a race for the cheque-books among wealthy British patrons.

Richard Dunwoody, who spurned the ride aboard Imperial Call, schooled his preferred mount, Flashing Steel, over five fences after racing at Punchestown yesterday. But Dunwoody was out of luck from his five mounts. Blazing Spectacle, a candidate for the Arkle Trophy Chase, was an odds-on failure on unsuitable ground. And Balawhar, one of four horses in contention at the final flight of the Red Bog Hurdle, could not contain Derrymoyle, the mount of Mark Dwyer.

Coral's cut Derrymoyle's Champion Hurdle odds to 20-1 from 33-1 but the seven-year-old will first tackle the Boyne Hurdle, at Navan a week tomorrow, before connections finalise their Cheltenham agenda. Derrymoyle has the Stayers' Hurdle as an alternative. Tiananmen Square, a fine third behind Derrymoyle after a two-year absence, was trimmed to 25-1 from 50-1 for the Champion Hurdle but is almost certain to contest the longer event.

Tim Easterby, who assumed command when his father, Peter, retired from training on Wednesday, wasted no time in opening his account when Bridle Path won the Peterlee Novices' Hurdle at Sedgefield yesterday.

Adrian Maguire's efforts to resume at the weekend were all but realised when he suffered no reaction to riding work at David Nicholson's stables yesterday morning. "I feel 100 per cent and all that is left is for me to pass the racecourse doctor," Maguire said of his scheduled visit to Sandown tomorrow. "I have four decent mounts lined up and I hope the meeting goes ahead." Don't we all.

CHRISTOPHER'S VIEW

Nap: SEA GOD
(4.30 Southwell)
Next best: Non Vintage
(3.00 Southwell)

Cold snap continues to bite

PROSPECTS for tomorrow's National Hunt meetings deteriorated yesterday, with frost threatening the valuable cards at Sandown, Chepstow and Wetherby.

"We had a very heavy frost overnight," Andrew Cooper, the clerk of the course at Sandown, said. "We will cover up again but you can't cover the whole course. It is almost inevitable that we will be having an inspection early on Saturday morning."

Tomorrow's meeting carries £140,000 in added prize-money, and features Cheltenham trials such as the grade one Scilly Isles Novices' Chase and Agfa Hurdle.

Prospects are poor at Chepstow, where the feature event is the £25,000-added *Coral Grand National Trial*. Rodger Farrant, the clerk of the course, said: "We couldn't have raced today. Twenty per cent of the course is still frozen."

Hopes are higher at Wetherby, in spite of an inspection at 9.15am today. A course spokeswoman said: "We had a very slight frost overnight and there is still a bit of snow on the track. The inspection is mainly precautionary."

Today's scheduled fixture at Kelso was called off yesterday because of frost and snow, while the meeting at Folkestone is subject to a 7am inspection.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.00 Kind Of Light. 2.30 Milos. 3.00 Non Vintage. 3.30 Oversman. 4.00 Harry. 4.30 Sea God.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.30 SEA GOD.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Foreman. 4.30 KINGCHIP BOY (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 HALHAM HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,780: 6f) (7 runners)

101	(4)	2-51	CHILIBANG BANG 7 (C,D,G,S) J Berry 9-9 (7ex)	C Lowther (7)	95
102	(1)	3-03	KIND OF LIGHT 14 (C,G) R Guest 9-7	F Lynch (7)	95
103	(7)	2-04	BIT OF BOTHER 14 T Barron 8-12	J Fortune	95
104	(2)	5-44	FOREMAN 7 (V,G) W O'Gorman 8-10	Emma O'Gorman	98
105	(5)	30-0	CHILLAM 14 J Leigh 8-6	D McKeown	90
106	(3)	0-41	MISS CAROTTENE 10 (D,G) M Ryan 8-5 (7ex)	M Baird (5)	▣
107	(6)	0-31	SEEKING DESTINY 14 (CD,G) M Chapman 8-4	D R McCabe (3)	97

3-1 Chilibang Bang, 7-2 Seeking Destiny, 4-1 Miss Carottene, 9-2 Foreman, 5-1 Bit Of Bother, 6-1 Kind Of Light, 33-1 Chillam.

2.30 LANGFORD APPRENTICES CLAIMING STAKES (£2,398: 7f) (6)

201	(1)		DESERT MAN 384J R Woodhouse 5-9-7	F Lynch	–
202	(5)	6513	MILOS 4 (C,D,F,G) T Naughton 5-9-7	T Ashley	▣
203	(3)	-506	ARABOYBILL 16 (B,D,F,G) R Simpson 5-9-1	Iona Wands	88
204	(6)	4-60	NORTHERN GREY 14 (B) J Berry 4-8-3	Joanne Webster (5)	92
205	(4)	400-	KOMLUCKY 139 (B,G) A Mulholland 4-8-1	G Faulkner	79
206	(2)	-604	LEGATEE 4 (D,F,G) A Streeter 5-8-1	D Sweeney (3)	80

5-4 Milos, 5-2 Legatee, 7-2 Araboybill, 7-1 Northern Grey, 14-1 Desert Man, 25-1 Komlucky.

3.00 MANSFIELD HANDICAP (£3,023: 1m 4f) (11)

301	(11)	13-1	ASHOVER 11 (CD,F,G,S) T Barron 6-10-1 (5ex)	Kimberley Hart (7)	▣
302	(9)	566/	TURGENEV 399 (D,G,S) R Bastiman 7-9-13	H Bastiman (5)	–
303	(6)	000-	NEW INN 13J (C,D,G,S) S Gollings 5-9-6	V Halliday	87
304	(8)	324-	NON VINTAGE 20J (F,G) M Chapman 5-9-1	J Weaver	96
305	(7)	03-	BOLD PURSUIT 297 (CD,F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 7-9-1	J Fortune	87
306	(4)	05-1	ADALOALDO 18 (CD,G) J Parkes 4-8-8	G Bardwell	93
307	(10)	-162	MODEST HOPE 7 (CD,F,G) B Richmond 9-8-8	C Teague (5)	97
308	(1)	006-	NOBLE CANONIRE 137 S Bowring 4-8-1	N Kennedy	82
309	(5)	610-	EXCLUSION 29J (D,F,S) J Hetherton 7-7-12	J Quinn	87
310	(2)	550-	JUST FLAMENCO 24J (F,S) M Ryan 5-7-12	M Baird (5)	98
311	(3)	-122	MR MORIARTY 7 (CD,BF,G) S Bowring 5-7-10	N Carlisle	94

11-4 Ashover, 3-1 Adaloaldo, 7-2 Non Vintage, 7-1 Mr Moriarty, 8-1 Modest Hope, 10-1 Turgenev, 12-1 others

3.30 OLD CLIPSTONE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,398: 1m 3f) (7)

401	(2)	02-	BALIOS 62 M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	94
402	(7)	00-0	MULHOLLANDE LAD 25 M Chapman 9-0	D R McCabe (3)	80
403	(3)	000-	OVERSMAN 70 J Fitzgerald 9-0	J Fortune	96
404	(5)	6-0	SKIPMAN 23 N Smith 9-0	S D Williams	–
405	(4)	00-0	DIASAFINA 10 S Williams 8-9	J Quinn	–
406	(1)	6-	KAT'S LADY 248 S Campion 8-9	D McKeown	–
407	(6)	46-2	REPLOY 30 Lord Huntingdon 8-9	L Dettori	▣

6-4 Balios, 7-4 Reploy, 11-4 Oversman, 14-1 Mulhollande Lad, 33-1 Skipman, 50-1 Kat's Lady, Diasafina

4.00 *NEW BALDERTON SELLING STAKES*
(£2,398: 1m 3f) (12)

501	(3)	601-	KISMETIM 65J (G) W Haigh 6-9-5	D Griffiths (5)	82
502	(12)	-135	KOMIAMAITE 7 (C,G) S Bowring 4-9-3	C Teague (5)	90
503	(6)	0-35	DUVEEN 10 (B,F,G,S) J White 6-9-0	M Tebbutt	▣
504	(11)	50/3	HARRY 15 A J Wilson 6-9-0	J Fortune	86
505	(1)	0-24	HAWWAM 14 (C,BF,F,G,S) E Alston 10-9-0	J Weaver	94
506	(7)	-302	NO SUBMISSION 14 (C,G,S) D Chapman 10-9-0	A Culhane	96
507	(10)	00-0	RAINBOW WALK 9 (V,G) J O'Shea 6-9-0	J Quinn	82
508	(8)	0-41	SHARP GAZELLE 14 (CD,F,G) B Smart 6-8-6	R Cochrane	95
509	(4)	40-4	NIGHT TIME 16 A Streeter 4-8-12	L Newton (5)	95
510	(2)	55-0	TRUMBLE 15 (G) C Thornton 4-8-12	D McKeown	82
511	(9)	54	MISS CASHTAL 10 (V) D Thom 5-8-9	M Fenton	79
512	(5)	-060	ANCHORENA 4 J A Harris 4-8-7	S D Williams	94

3-1 No Submission, 7-2 Sharp Gazelle, 6-1 Komiamaite, 8-1 Duveen, Hawwam, 10-1 Harry, Kismetim, 12-1 others

4.30 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,023: 1m) (11)

601	(4)	00-2	MASTER BEVELED 13 (D,BF,F,G,S) P Evans 6-9-12	S Sanders	88
602	(5)	035-	TATIKA 46 G Wragg 6-9-9	G Milligan (7)	84
603	(6)	00-0	ROAR ON TOUR 28 (CD,BF,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-9-8	A Culhane	90
604	(7)	0111	KINGCHIP BOY 7 (V,CD,F,G) M Ryan 7-9-6 (7ex)	T Ives	94
605	(2)	0-42	LEGAL ISSUE 11 (F) W Haigh 4-9-3	Dale Gibson	95
606	(9)	13-4	JALMAID 7 (CD,G) B McMahon 4-8-13	G Carter	86
607	(8)	00-0	TWIN CREEKS 11 (C,F,G) M Hammond 5-8-13	R Cochrane	84
608	(11)	5400	AQUADO 7 (B,CD,F,G) S Bowring 7-8-6	J Quinn	84
609	(10)	03-5	SEA SPOUSE 28 (C,G) M Blanshard 5-8-6	N Adams	80
610	(1)	-452	SEA GOD 7 M Chapman 5-8-1	G Bardwell	▣
611	(3)	00-0	CHEERFUL GROOM 11 (F) S Bowring 5-7-13	N Kennedy	80

3-1 Sea God, 7-2 Kingchip Boy, 9-2 Tatika, 5-1 Legal Issue, 6-1 Master Beveled, 8-1 Aquado, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 19 winners from 68 runners, 27.9%. M Ryan, 19 from 75, 25.3%. Lord Huntingdon, 22 from 102, 21.6%. M Johnston, 32 from 175, 18.3%. W O'Gorman, 32 from 179, 17.9%. J Fitzgerald, 20 from 124, 16.1%.

JOCKEYS: Kimberley Hart, 8 winners from 24 rides, 33.3%. L Dettori, 39 from 185, 21.1%. J Weaver, 38 from 208, 18.3%. F Lynch, 4 from 22, 18.2%. T Ives, 21 from 118, 17.8%. R Cochrane, 24 from 153, 15.7%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Sedgefield

Going: good to firm, good in places

1.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Grate Deel (R Supple, 5-1); 2, Buyers Dream (2-1 fav); 3, Miss Millipede (3-1). 7 ran. NR: Kitulla, One More Bill, Polly Star. 7l, 10l. P Beaumont. Tote £6.20; £2.10, £1.30. DF: £7.70. Trio: £7.30. CSF: £15.56

1.40 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Rave De Valse (B Harding, 7-1); 2, Nodform Wonder (4-5 fav); 3, Jomove (9-2). 7 ran. NR: Easter Baby, Kaizari, Whitegatesprincess. Nk, 13l. Denys Smith. Tote: £10.00; £3.10, £1.70. DF: £4.10. Trio: £7.20. CSF: £14.00. Tricast: £29.24.

2.10 (3m 3f ch) 1, Stop The Waller (P Carberry, 2-1 fav); 2, Jendee (9-2); 3, Russian Castle (5-2). 9 ran. NR: Heavenly Citizen, Irish Gent, Lupy Minstrel, Richardson, Shul Saor. 2½l, 2½l. F Murphy. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £3.90. Trio: £5.60. CSF: £11.27. Tricast: £21.20.

2.40 (2m 5f ch) 1, Aly Daley (M A Fitzgerald, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Final Beat (7-1); 3, The Gallopin'major (8-1). Cush Supreme 11-4 jt-fav (pu). 13 ran. NR: Datusman, Perfect Light, Ruaimit. 1¾l, 20l. J Johnson. Tote: £4.70; £2.30, £2.80, £1.60. DF: £7.30. Trio: £24.70. CSF: £24.02.

3.10 (2m 5f ch) 1, His Way (M A Fitzgerald, 11-8 fav); 2, Nellegrity (5-1); 3, Briar's Delight (6-1). 7 ran. NR: East Houston, Finch's Gem, Mony-Skip, Nova Champ. 1¾l, sh.hd. J Johnson. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £6.10. DF: £5.60. Trio: £8.80. CSF: £9.25. Tricast: £26.46.

3.40 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Bridle Path (L Wyer, 6-1); 2, Highland Way (1-4 fav); 3, Strongalong (12-1). 7 ran. NR: General Muck, Philharmonic. 2½l, 5l. T Easterby. Tote: £5.40; £3.70, £1.10. DF: £3.30. Trio: £6.30. CSF: £8.00.

4.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Val De Rama (B Storey, 11-4); 2, Urban Dancing (15-2); 3, Topothanonthracing (2-1 fav). 6 ran. NR: Exemplar, Izza, Livio, Snowy Lane. Hd, 20l. Denys Smith. Tote: £3.40; £2.10, £2.50. DF: £7.90. Trio: £6.70. CSF: £20.37. Tricast: £43.88.

Placepot: £2.90. Quadpot: £1.70.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.50 (6f) 1, Anzio (D R McCabe, 7-2); 2, Inherent Magic (15-8); 3, Lift Boy (10-1). Star Talent 5-4 fav. 5 ran. NR: Hard To Figure. ¾l, nk. B Pearce. Tote: £3.90; £1.60, £1.30. DF: £4.20. CSF: £10.11.

2.20 (1m 5f) 1, Heighth Of Fame (J Fortune, 7-1); 2, Mitek (5-1); 3, Northern Trial (9-2 fav); 4, Captain Marmalade (11-1). 18 ran. Sh hd, 3½l. A J Wilson. Tote: £12.10; £1.70, £1.10, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £30.40. Trio: £39.20. CSF: £45.78. Tricast: £173.88.

2.50 (1m 4f) 1, Prince Danzig (J Weaver, 11-4); 2, Progression (5-6 fav); 3, Red Spectacle (8-1). 7 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. D Murray Smith. Tote: £3.60; £1.30, £1.10. DF: £2.20. CSF: £5.25.

3.20 (1m) 1, Blue Flyer (J Weaver, 4-5 fav); 2, Lancashire Legend (8-1); 3, Rawi (8-1). 8 ran. 2½l, 1¾l. R Ingram. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £6.40. CSF: £8.14.

3.50 (1m 2f) 1, Robellion (R Cochrane, 4-1); 2, Zahid (10-1); 3, Explosive Power (13-8 fav). 12 ran. NR: Al Shaati, Sweet Allegiance. 2½l, hd. D Arbuthnot. Tote: £6.10; £2.50, £2.70, £1.20. DF: £33.40. Trio: £53.90. CSF: £44.37. Tricast: £85.30.

4.20 (1m) 1, Digpast (Mr Davy Jones, 100-30); 2, Four Of Spades (11-2); 3, Dream Carrier (16-1). Mr Frosty 11-8 fav. 12 ran. 2½l, 4l. R O'Sullivan. Tote: £4.60; £1.40, £2.20, £9.60. DF: £18.00. Trio: £100.00. CSF: £22.85. Tricast: £248.44.

Jackpot: £11,971.40 (0.9 winning tickets; pool of £15,343.68 carried forward to Southwell today).

Placepot: £14.90. Quadpot: £4.40.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Folkestone: 1.10 Indonesian, 2.10 Sharp Thrill, Happy Hostage. Southwell: 4.00 Duveen, Miss Cashtal

RACELINE
FULL RESULTS SERVICE
0891-168-168
0891 168+ BEFORE THE OFF RESULTS COMMENTARY

F'KESTONE	101	201	301
SOUTHWELL	102	202	302
GREYHOUNDS	122	222	422

Calls charged at 39p/min cheap rate, 49p/min at all other times. INS, 15 Mark Lane, Leeds LS1 8LB.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The refresher today illustrates a common theme — arranging to make the defenders use their entries in the wrong order.

♠K4
♥A109
♦KQ92
♣QJ103

♠QJ1097 ♥Q75 ♦73 ♣K76 — N W E S — ♠852 ♥J542 ♦A1065 ♣52

♠A63
♥K83
♦J84
♣A984

Contract: 3 NT by South — Lead: Queen of spades

South opened 1 NT (12-14) and North raised to 3 NT. West leads the queen of spades and, as you have no fear in any other suit, you duck. That gains when the spades are 6-2 — if East gets in, he will not have another spade to lead to establish the suit. After winning the second spade with the king, what do you do?

First, you count your tricks: two in spades, two in hearts and one in clubs. You have potential sources of extra tricks in diamonds and clubs, but, even if the diamonds break, that will give you only eight tricks. So, you are going to have to play on both suits. Which do you play first?

The solution is to play clubs first. Say that West wins and clears spades; now, when you play diamonds, if East has another spade left, the spades will be dividing 4-4.

Notice what happens if you play diamonds first. East takes the ace and clears spades; now, you cannot take more than eight tricks before tackling clubs. With West holding the king and two established spades, that means that you go one off. The general theme is to attack the entries in the danger hand first.

All convinced by that? Well, notice that what I say assumes that it is West who has the long spades. That is likely from the lead, but, what would you do if you thought that East had the long spades?

Now, as East's only possible entry is in diamonds, you should attack them first — playing clubs first may enable West to clear the spades and leave East with two winners to cash when he wins the ace of diamonds.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Sicilian problems

The Sicilian Defence is Black's most ambitious counter to White's king pawn opening. It has been a favourite of such aggressive world champions as Mikhail Tal, Bobby Fischer and, of course, Garry Kasparov. By playing 1. ... c5, Black immediately stakes a claim in the centre that White standardly challenges with 3. d4, as in this game from Wijk aan Zee.

The strategic situation in the Sicilian tends to be that Black has a compact pawn centre and chances in the open c-file — advantages that come to the fore if Black can survive to the endgame phase. However, as Dr Tarrasch, that great chess teacher, once wrote: "Before the endgame, the Gods have placed the middlegame."

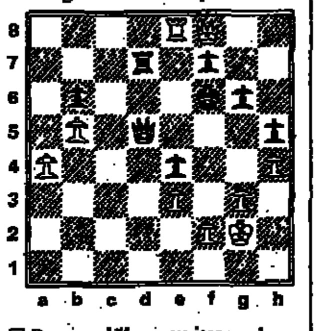
This is precisely Black's problem in the Sicilian. Although his strategic chances are to be preferred, White's free development gives him ample opportunity for tactical skirmishing and disruptive sacrifices. The win by Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster who captured third prize at Wijk aan Zee, is a case in point.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Robert Hubner
Wijk aan Zee, January 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nc6
5	Nc3	Qc7
6	Be3	a6
7	Bd3	Nf6
8	0-0	Bd6
9	f4	Bc5
10	Nf5	Ne7
11	Nxg7+	Kf8
12	Bxc5	Qxc5+
13	Kh1	Kxg7
14	e5	Ne8
15	Ne4	Qc7
16	Qh5	Ng6
17	Nf6	Qd8
18	f5	exf5
19	Qxf5	d5
20	Qg5	Be6
21	Rae1	Qa5
22	Nh5+	Kf8
23	Bxg6	hxg6
24	Nf4	Bf5
25	e6	Qc7
26	exf7	Kxf7
27	g4	Qxc2
28	Re2	Qc6
29	gxf5	d4+
30	Kg1	d3
31	Qe7+	Kg8
32	Re6	Rh7
33	Nxg6	Rxe7
34	Nxe7+	Kf7
35	Nxc6	bxc6
36	Rd1	Rd8
37	Re3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AGILA
a. A legionary archer
b. A resin
c. Sun-dried ostrich steak

DOUROUCOULI
a. Sesame seed dip
b. A Turkish messenger
c. A nocturnal monkey

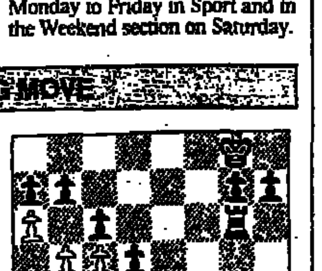
CARBONADO
a. Flogging the feet
b. A beef stew
c. An opaque diamond

DUPLEX QUERELA
a. A quarrel with neighbours
b. A thin party wall
c. Twofold complaint

Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to move. This position is from the game Selesniev — Reti, Bad Pistyan, 1922. Can you spot how Black swiftly infiltrated the white kingside to score a quick knockout?

Solution on page 38

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

1.10 Tragic Hero
1.40 Pete The Parson
2.10 Lixos
2.40 Ciel De Brion
3.10 KING'S GOLD (nap)
3.40 Rainbow Castle
4.10 Dacelo

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Lixos.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES) SIS
7AM INSPECTION

1.10 VALENTINE GORTON JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,889: 2m 1f 110yd) (20 runners)

1		ANALOGUE 102F (S Holt) P Mitchell 11-0	R Dunwoody	–
2		BIG TREAT 142F (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 11-0	E Husband (3)	–
3	30	BON VOYAGE 30 (B) (Mrs C Yeates) D Grissell 11-0	J R Kavanagh	82
4		CULTURAL ICON 15F (Mrs P Mitchell) P Mitchell 11-0	J Osborne	–
5	03	DEYMIAR 14 (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 11-0	D Leahy	▣
6		EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY 58F (Exclusive Connection Ptnrs) A James 11-0	W Marston	–
7	P	INDONESIAN 27 (B) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 11-0	G Bradley	–
8		MATAMOROS 106F (N Crocker, C Hennings, G Harwood) G Harwood 11-0	M Richards	–
9	5	ROYAL RABBIT 83 (The Bridge End Hotel Racing) C Nash 11-0	D Gallagher	59
10	P3	SAILEP 16 (P Slade) R Hodges 11-0	W McFarland	75
11	U8	SLIGHTLY SPECIAL 93F (T Keep) S Dow 11-0	A Dicken	–
12	430	THE QUADS 9 (J Duddy) J Ffitch-Heyes 11-0	A P McCoy	80
13	P	TORCH VERT 82 (P Green) N Walker 11-0	P Hide	–
14	U22	TRAGIC HERO 15 (B) (Knight Hawks Ptnrs) M Pipe 11-0	D Bridgwater	98
15	0	EQUITY'S DARLING 16 (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 10-9	C Llewellyn	64
16		MARONETTA 24F (Mrs S Martin) M Ryan 10-9	J Ryan	–
17		MNEMONIC 73F (N Henderson) N Henderson 10-9	M A Fitzgerald	–
18		SILVER BIRD 248F (Mrs T Pickford) M Ryan 10-9	NON-RUNNER	–
19		STAR ANISE 149F (W & E Mumford) Mrs D Haine 10-9	G Hogan (3)	–
20		WISSYWIS 147F (P Houghton) J Mullins 10-9	S Curran (3)	–

BETTING: 9-4 Tragic Hero, 4-1 Deymiar, 8-1 Mnemonic, Matamoros, 10-1 Sailep, Torch Vert, 12-1 Analogue, Bon Voyage, 16-1 others.

1995: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED

FORM FOCUS

BON VOYAGE 8¾l 3rd of 19 to Kilcoran Bay in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start, with THE QUADS 5l 4th. DEYMIAR 15l 3rd of 11 to Zabadi in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good). ROYAL RABBIT 34l 5th of 11 to Altime Dancer in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). SAILEP 12l 3rd of 17 to Darter in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, soft) with EQUITY'S DARLING 20l 9th. SLIGHTLY SPECIAL 31½l 6th of 10 to Mister Chippy in maiden hurdle at Dundalk (2m 110yd, good to firm). THE QUADS 18l 3rd of 15 to Darter in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. TRAGIC HERO ¾l 2nd of 17 to Danjing in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good).
Selection: DEYMIAR

1.40 MANSTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,207: 2m) (12 runners)

1	24411	HEAD FOR HEAVEN 59 (S) (Nairn-O'Connell Racing) R Hoad 6-11-10	G Bradley	–
2	F2/554-4	STAGE PLAYER 43 (F,G) (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 10-11-10	I Lawrence	97
3	554-63P	SENSE OF VALUE 28 (F,S) (D Smith) J Smith 7-11-9	R Davis	97
4	1655-00	SMART IN SABLE 30 (G,S) (C Silverthorne) P Hedger 9-11-9	M A Fitzgerald	–
5	36F414	AEDEAN 24 (D,S) (M Orpen-Palmer) G Enright 7-11-7	J R Kavanagh	▣
6	3/33-03U	PETE THE PARSON 24 (W Stott) J Old 7-11-7	J Osborne	–
7	00115-0	WINSPIT 22 (F) (Mrs J Purdie) R Alner 6-10-12	A P McCoy	–
8	0006-FP	REGAL AURA 16 (G) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 6-10-12	G Hogan (3)	–
9	006000-	BRIGADIER SUPREME 385 (V James) P Butler 7-10-11	T J Murphy (3)	–
10	3-60032	FICHU 49 (F) (Mrs L Richards) Mrs L Richards 8-10-5	M Richards	98
11	0/P00-0U	TOP MISS 9 (A Neaves) A Neaves 7-10-0	R Johnson (3)	–
12	P-35503	PRECIOUS WONDER 9 (D Butler) P Butler 7-10-0	P Crowley (7)	82

Long handicap: Top Miss 9-12, Precious Wonder 9-4.

BETTING: 3-1 Pete The Parson, 9-2 Aedean, 5-1 Fichu, 11-2 Stage Player, 6-1 Smart In Sable, 8-1 Head For Heaven, 10-1 Winspit, 12-1 others

FORM FOCUS

HEAD FOR HEAVEN beat Challenger Row 3l in selling handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft). SENSE OF VALUE 11½l 3rd of 4 to Jacob's Wife in novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). AEDEAN 37l 4th to Arctic Kinsman in novice chase at Leicester (2m 1f, good to soft) with PETE THE PARSON (7lb worse off) unseated rider 2nd. Previously beat Policeman's Pride 9l in novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m, heavy) with STAGE PLAYER (5lb better off) 8½l 4th and PRECIOUS WONDER (2lb better off) 25½l 7th. PETE THE PARSON 10½l 3rd to Oldhill Wood in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. FICHU 6l 2nd to Dawn Chance in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good). PRECIOUS WONDER 42l 3rd of 16 to Early Drinker in maiden chase over course and distance (good).
Selection: AEDEAN (nap)

2.10 NORTH FORELAND SELLING HURDLE
(£2,061: 2m 1f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	4021-P0	DO BE WARE 9 (D,S) (J Ffitch-Heyes) J Ffitch-Heyes 6-11-10	J R Kavanagh	81
2	61P	*HAPPY HOSTAGE 14 (B,CD,G) (A Albright) J White 5-11-10*	A P McCoy	97
3	64/R060	NATIVE CHIEFTAN 16 (F) (R Cross) S Dow 7-11-10	A Dicken	98
4	/0PP/5P	BIG CHANCE 91 (Dr K Bowen) S Bowen 7-11-3	D Walsh (5)	82
5	00-040	CRAZY WEATHER 22 (V) (R Brazier) Mrs P Sly 6-11-3	R Marley	98
6	P364P4	DESERT PRESIDENT 15 (V) (F Mooney) R Hoad 5-11-3	G Bradley	85
7	0	HIGHEST ROOTS 22 (BF) (Knight Hawks Ptnrs) M Pipe 5-11-3	D Bridgwater	–
8	P055-64	INTENTION 15F (The Spoofers) P Hedger 6-11-3	M Richards	94
9	6-P2	LIXOS 30 (Miss C Fagerstrom) J Banks 5-11-3	R Dunwoody	▣
10	0PP	MONSIEUR BROOKS 28 (Mrs D Brooks) R Strange 6-11-3	R Strange	–
11	50-	*SHARP THRILL 7F (B) (R Burks) B Smart 5-11-3*	M Molloy (7)	85
12	003GP	GAME DILEMMA 30 (J McGready) J Mullins 5-10-12	S Curran (3)	97
13		PREMIER BLUES 142F (G Crean) R Williams 6-10-12	S Keightley	–

BETTING: 3-1 Lixos, 5-1 Happy Hostage, 6-1 Crazy Weather, 7-1 Game Dilemma, 8-1 Native Chieftan, Highest Roots, Intention, 12-1 others

FORM FOCUS

HAPPY HOSTAGE beat Clowater Lady 1¾l in 14-runner selling novice hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start, with INTENTION (7lb better off) 8½l 4th and DESERT PRESIDENT (7lb better off) 30l 6th.
NATIVE CHIEFTAIN about 33l 6th of 8 to Cheryl's lad in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. CRAZY WEATHER 11l 4th of 11 to Oldhill Wood in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. DESERT PRESIDENT 15l 4th of 16 to Scottish Wedding in selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft).
LIXOS 1l 2nd of 11 to Valiant Toski in selling hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy) with DESERT PRESIDENT 30l 4th and GAME DILEMMA (1lb worse off) pulled up last.
Selection: HAPPY HOSTAGE

2.40 KENT HANDICAP CHASE (£4,542: 3m 2f) (8 runners)

1	001201	CIEL DE BRION 58 (S) (H de Pracomtal) F Doumen (Fr) 6-12-0	A Kondrat	–
2	2/12P3-P	KALANSKI 18 (G,S) (I Kerman) C Egerton 10-11-13	J A McCarthy	92
3	5F0-440	DO BE BRIEF 20 (B,G,S) (E Brown) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-0	W Marston	▣
4	32122/U-	TIPP MARINER 463 (G,S) (Mrs J Bishop) S Sherwood 11-10-11	G Bradley	–
5	231B6-6	DESPERATE 28 (G,S) (The Desperate Ptnrs) O Sherwood 8-10-9	J Osborne	86
6	1P-3211	MALAWI 28 (B,G,S) (R Bethell) W Bethell 6-10-8	A S Smith	90
7	U1121	EQUITY PLAYER 52 (CD,F,G,S) (The Mrs S Partnership) R Curtis 11-10-7	D Morris	98
8	0-P4052	ANNIO CHILONE 18 (CD,G,S) (Miss J Semple) J Gifford 10-10-6	L Aspell (7)	95

BETTING: 6-4 Ciel De Brion, 7-2 Malawi, 5-1 Equity Player, 6-1 Desperate, 8-1 Annio Chilone, 10-1 others

FORM FOCUS

CIEL DE BRION beat Chel Dudy 8l in 10-runner handicap chase at Auteuil (2m 6f, very soft). DO BE BRIEF 25½l 4th of 8 to Suny Boy in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, soft) on penultimate start. TIPP MARINER 2l 2nd of 8 to Armagret in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good) on penultimate start, Apr 1994. DESPERATE 15½l 6th of 16 to Gilpa Valu in novice handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. MALAWI beat Kibby Bank 4l in 13-runner novice chase at Newcastle (3m, good). EQUITY PLAYER beat Woodlands Boy 5l in handicap chase over course and distance (good) with ANNIO CHILONE (9lb better off) about 7½l 5th. ANNIO CHILONE 14l 2nd of 11 to Nazzaro in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft) with KALANSKI (2lb better off) behind when pulled up 3 out.
Selection: EQUITY PLAYER

3.10 HBLB GOODWINS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,411: 2m 1f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	2/124-34	FORGETFUL 13F (F,G) (The Equus Club) D Burchell 7-11-10	D J Burchell	87
2	3611	YUBRALEE 71 (D,G) (D Johnson) M Pipe 4-11-8	D Bridgwater	89
3	0P5131	HAWTHORNE GLEN 9 (CD,F,S) (Mrs G Dawson) Mrs M Long 9-11-6 (7ex)	B Fenton (3)	98
4	0P0-623	KING'S GOLD 30 (G Reilly) Mrs L Richards 6-11-3	M Richards	96
5	55345-0	THUHOOL 9 (CD,G,S) (C Cornwell) R Rowe 8-11-3	D O'Sullivan	91
6	33-5000	NINE O THREE 20 (S) (Elderford Tool Ltd) A Newcombe 7-11-0	A P McCoy	95
7	RP6/426-	THE MINE CAPTAIN 318 (G) (G Evans) S Sherwood 9-10-11	O Evans (7)	94
8	4P0P4/0	MORE OF IT 18 (G,S) (M Roberts) M Roberts 11-10-10	C Llewellyn	–
9	054320	PERSISTENT GUNNER 8 (G) (P Slade) R Hodges 6-10-2	T Dascombe (5)	▣
10	1P05-03	LOFTY DEED 28 (S) (Mrs P Linton) W Musson 6-10-0	A Bates (5)	92
11	R004F6	FERENS HALL 30 (M Roberts) M Roberts 9-10-0	P McLoughlin	96

Long handicap: Lofty Deed 9-13, Ferens Hall 9-6

BETTING: 11-4 Yubralee, 7-2 King's Gold, 4-1 Hawthorne Glen, 9-2 The Mine Captain, 10-1 Forgetful, 14-1 Persistent Gunner, 16-1 others

FORM FOCUS

FORGETFUL neck 3rd of 7 to Nordic Valley in claiming hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. YUBRALEE beat Handson 7l in 14-runner novices' selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). HAWTHORNE GLEN beat Arctic Life 2l in 12-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) with THUHOOL (8lb better off) 43l 9th. KING'S GOLD 18½l 3rd of 16 to Kingdom Of Shades in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). THE MINE CAPTAIN 3l 2nd of 17 to Safisong in novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good) on penultimate start, with KING'S GOLD (14lb worse off) 38l 11th. PERSISTENT GUNNER head 2nd of 12 to Kelly Mac in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: KING'S GOLD

3.40 CANTERBURY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,139: 2m 5f) (18 runners)

1	54-6111	MANEREE 10 (F,G,S) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 9-12-5 (6ex)	A P McCoy	96
2	24-3F00	FAIR BROTHER 20 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Watts) G Balding 10-12-0	Mr A Balding (7)	98
3	23P-143	RAINBOW CASTLE 100 (G) (Findon Cricket RC) J Gifford 9-12-0	Mr P O'Keeffe (7)	90
4	2311-UP	DERRYMOSS 15 (V,F,G,S) (Mrs J Watts) M Pipe 10-12-0	D Bridgwater	87
5	43/1/FU	WYLAM 14 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Wootton) J Gifford 9-11-7	P Hide	–
6	/6F/2P4	RAGLAN ROAD 57 (D,F,G,S) (Chasers) Miss A Embiricos 12-11-6	J Ryan	97
7	20/P-355	NATHIR 30 (C,S) (Mrs J Coleman) P Butler 10-11-6	T J Murphy (3)	–
8	/1/F2F2	WATERFORD CASTLE 16 (BF,G,S) (Sybil Lady Joseph) A Bailey 9-11-5	J Osborne	95
9	1223/PP	DEEPENDABLE 9 (V,G) (R Stone) Mrs L Richards 9-11-4	M Richards	–
10	140U15	FENWICK 15 (F,G,S) (Major A Pearn) R Hodges 9-11-2	T Dascombe (5)	90
11	F2F6/2/	TROJAN CALL 836 (D,G) (A Collins) R Rowe 9-11-1	D O'Sullivan	–
12	1/PP-F4	THE NIGELSTAN 108 (F,G,S) (P Hedger) P Hedger 15-10-10	M Clinton (7)	–
13	4P-5463	OPAL'S TENSPOT 9 (F,G,S) (Miss J Mailes) J Bradley 9-10-8	R Johnson (3)	98
14	2-6563U	ALLO GEORGE 18 (G,S) (Lavis Medical Systems) A Newcombe 10-10-5	A Thornton	▣
15	20-P066	ROSIE-B 22 (Damam Precision Eng) R Strange 6-10-4	Mr J Culloty (7)	–
16	33-P340	MIRAGE DANCER 9 (D,F) (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 13-10-0	I Lawrence	90
17	41PP-UP	CLOWN AROUND 16 (F) (J Hutsby) J Hutsby 8-10-0	D Walsh (5)	–
18	P5/0P5/	LE DENSTAN 636 (S Powell) P Hedger 9-10-0	J R Kavanagh	–

Long handicap: Le Denstan 9-12

BETTING: 9-2 Rainbow Castle, 5-1 Maneree, 6-1 Waterford Castle, 7-1 Fenwick, 10-1 Fair Brother, 12-1 Raglan Road, Opal's Tenspot, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

MANEREE beat Boston Rover 6l in 5-runner handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good to firm). Earlier beat Hurryup 12l in 6-runner handicap chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good) with RAGLAN ROAD (13lb better off) 13½l 4th. RAINBOW CASTLE best effort this season beat The Whip 3l in 10-runner handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good). RAGLAN ROAD best effort this season 3l 2nd of 6 to Go Universal in handicap chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good to firm). WATERFORD CASTLE 6l 2nd of 17 to Sprowston Boy in handicap chase at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good) with OPAL'S TENSPOT (5lb better off) 22½l 6th, ALLO GEORGE unseated rider 13th, CLOWN AROUND (2lb better off) tailed off when pulled up before 14th. FENWICK beat Coolree ½l in novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: WATERFORD CASTLE

4.10 BONUSPRINT STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,459: 2m 1f 110yd) (20 runners)

1	14	KENTFORD TINA 59 (G) (D Bare) J Mullins 5-11-9	S Curran (3)	–
2		CHECKS AND STRIPES (D Knox) C Weedon 5-11-7	G Hogan (3)	–
3		DACELO (B Harris) O Sherwood 5-11-7	D Thomas (7)	–
4		DON'T MIND IF I DO (Mrs J Addison) P Webber 5-11-7	Mr P Scott (7)	–
5		DOUBLE ACHIEVEMENT (Mrs C Panting) M Pipe 6-11-7	O Burrows (7)	–
6	4	FERRERS 43 (J Bott) Mrs P Sly 5-11-7	Miss L Allan	–
7		FIRST INSTANCE (Pepin Racing) D Grissell 6-11-7	Mr T McCarthy	–
8		GERRY'S PRIDE (G Heard) G Balding 5-11-7	Mr A Balding (7)	–
9		MILLERSFORD (Mrs D Fletcher) N Gaselee 5-11-7	F Cooper (7)	–
10		MISTER GENEROSITY (P Evans) C Weedon 5-11-7	D Forth (5)	–
11		NASONE (J Plackett) J Gifford 5-11-7	Mr P O'Keeffe (7)	–
12		ROYAL RAVEN (A Weller) J Gifford 5-11-7	L Aspell (5)	–
13		SEABROOK LAD (Seabrook Partners) M Wilkinson 5-11-7	P Crowley (7)	–
14		THREE FARTHINGS (A Britten) J Old 6-11-7	D Creech (7)	–
15		WISE KING (J Old) J Old 6-11-7	Mr G Baines (7)	–
16		MOOR HALL LADY (R Brookhouse) K Burke 5-11-2	A Larnach (3)	–
17		SPLENDID THYNE (J Eakanoni) R Hoad 4-10-11	Mr J Culloty (7)	–
18		STARCHY'S QUEST (T Jones) T Jones 4-10-11	D Finnegan (7)	–
19		ROSALEE ROYALE (Mrs G Dawson) Mrs M Long 4-10-6	B Fenton (3)	–
20		SILLY POINT (Miss N Lucas) P Butler 4-10-6	T J Murphy (3)	–

BETTING: 7-2 Double Achievement, 4-1 Royal Raven, 5-1 Dacelo, 6-1 Wise King, Kentford Tina, 8-1 Three Farthings, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

KENTFORD TINA 7¾l 4th of 16 to Mighty Moss in National Hunt Flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). FERRERS 24l 4th of 17 to Micker Montrose in National Hunt Flat race at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy)
Selection: KENTFORD TINA

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Henderson	5	16	31.3	D Bridgwater	5	20	25.0
M Pipe	9	30	30.0	M Richards	6	28	21.4
R Alner	4	17	23.5	R Dunwoody	10	51	19.6
S Dow	4	18	22.2	P Hide	5	29	17.2
J Gifford	15	68	22.1	C Llewellyn	3	19	15.8
Mrs D Haine	4	24	16.7	M A Fitzgerald	3	22	13.6

Slow play flusters Welshman hoping to capitalise on good early form

Woosnam made to wait for resurgence

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN PERTH

IAN WOOSNAM left Singapore on the crest of a wave after his victory in the opening event of the PGA European Tour on Sunday. He began the Heineken Classic here yesterday with a zestful round that suggested that the 2,500-mile journey had not diminished his form, nor had the dry, intense heat of Western Australia, where the temperature was more than 90F, sapped his energy.

Playing in a black cap perched against the fierce sun and otherwise dressed in white, Woosnam made light of some of the trickiest holes at The Vines, a difficult course that was playing at its most challenging. A 69, three under par, was infinitely better than Woosnam had expected when he was two over par after seven holes.

Woosnam is a man who likes to get on with things. He talks, eats, walks and drives quickly and, when he has to stand still and watch others on a golf course, he is as restless as a little boy forced to remain indoors and eat his cabbage while his friends are enjoying themselves outside in the garden. Yesterday, he could only fidget; leaning on his club, shifting his weight from one leg to the other, flicking at the perspiration in his face.

Woosnam is a quicker player than most and slow play annoys him — yesterday, it was very slow. He was annoyed that his round had taken 5¼ hours to complete — and said so. "Everyone is taking far too much time fiddling and faffing around," he said, "and it is not getting any better. Nothing is being done about it. I reckon 4½ hours is plenty, 5¼ hours is ridiculous."

DAVID CANNON / ALLSPORT

Woosnam has to sit it out as another hold-up hinders his promising progress in the opening round of the Heineken Classic at The Vines

At times, Woosnam made it look easy: never more so than on the par-five 18th, where, with elegant strokes of a driver and a six-iron, he hit his ball to within 15 feet and then holed for an eagle. Yet appearances were deceptive. "I find this course very difficult," he said. "Everywhere I want to go is a bunker."

John Daly knew the feeling. He was so intimidated by the bunkers that gnaw into the fairways at precisely the point where he did not want them to that his round of 71 was achieved without the use of a wood. His "Killer Whale" metal driver remained sheathed all day.

Woosnam dared use his driver on only eight driving holes: five more than Greg Norman, who recorded a 73. On the other holes, the world No 1 used either a two- or three-iron or three-wood. "Seems a bit odd to me to build a course where you can hardly ever use your driver," Norman said.

Still, if it is not one Greg, then it is another. While most eyes were looking to see if Norman would yield a dividend on the Aus$ 300,000 (about £150,000) that he is reported to have been paid to appear in this event, Greg Turner sped to the front of the field with his lowest round since he won a tournament in Majorca last March. His 66, six under par, put him jointly in the lead with Wayne Smith.

Smith is in form and a local hero. He has lived in this part of Western Australia for years and finished second in this event for the past two years. Turner, on the other hand, though born in Dunedin, has hardly played in Australia and New Zealand lately because a wrist injury has limited him to European tournaments.

Andrew Coltart, the runner-up to Woosnam on Sunday, achieved a golfing rarity of a round made up of 18 pars; shades of Nick Faldo at Muirfield in the fourth round of the 1987 Open. "If you're going to do it, then it's better to do it on a course like this one," Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, said.

Harold hits form right on cue to put Welsh title in sight

BY PHIL YATES

DAVE HAROLD was at a loss to explain his sudden, and dramatic, improvement in form after beating Darren Morgan 5-2 in the quarter-finals of the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament in Newport yesterday.

Morgan's demise left John Parrott as the only player from the top ten in the world rankings to survive and, on the evidence of his latest performance, Harold, who eliminated Stephen Hendry in the previous round, could now repeat his triumph at the 1993 Asian Open. Yet, he arrived in South Wales totally devoid of confidence after suffering first-round defeats in the opening four world ranking tournaments of the 1995-96 campaign.

That did not change despite beating Tony Jones 5-3 and, from 4-1 in arrears, Carl Payne 5-4. "I don't know how I got through because I was playing the most atrocious snooker of my career," Harold said.

The metamorphosis occurred during his 5-3 defeat of Hendry, the world champion, on Tuesday. "Something just clicked in my head but I don't know why: it's a mental thing and this game is all between the ears," Harold, who has fallen from thirteenth to 22nd in the provisional rankings this season, said.

Harold could not have wished for a better start against Morgan as he led 2-0 thanks to runs of 72 and 81, but Morgan produced a 143 total clearance in the third frame, the highest break compiled in the event.

At 2-2, it was a difficult match to predict, but Harold dominated the closing three frames to secure a place in the best-of-11 frames semi-final against Mark Williams this afternoon. It will be Harold's first appearance in the last four since the 1994 Skoda Grand Prix.

Morgan, who aggregated only 33 points during his post-interval collapse, was particularly disappointed to have squandered what he regarded as a "golden opportunity" to win on home soil.

Although Morgan, whose home, in Cwmfelinfach, is only ten miles away from the venue, is now a strong favourite to collect the £5,000 highest-break prize, such a financial prospect provided no consolation. "I'd give the money away if I could win that match," he said.

IN BRIEF

Henman reaches new ATP heights

TIM HENMAN beat Mark Petchey, his Great Britain Davis Cup colleague, 6-1, 7-6 in the Shanghai Open tennis tournament to reach the semi-finals of an ATP tournament for the first time yesterday. Henman, 21, the No 2 seed, ranked No 84 in the world, is certain to rise in the world rankings this month.

Henman plays Andrei Olhovskiy, of Russia, the No 6 seed, who defeated Cristiano Caratti, of Italy, 6-3, 6-4, on Saturday. Jeff Tarango, the No 1 seed, noted for his walk-out and £10,000 fine at Wimbledon last year, beat Danny Sapsford, of Surrey, 5-7, 6-0, 6-3, in the second round yesterday. He beat Jeremy Bates in straight sets on Tuesday.

Lomas returns

Table tennis: Lisa Lomas has regained the England women's No 1 spot after successfully coming through the Olympic qualifying tournament in Manchester with nine wins. Lomas, 28, is 66 points ahead of Andrea Holt, the England champion, who still has the knee injury that cost her a singles berth in Atlanta in July. Lomas and Holt will bid to qualify for the Olympic women's doubles in Nantes, from February 9 to 10. The top four men retain their positions, with Matthew Syed, the No 1, ahead of Alan Cooke, Chen Xinhua and Carl Prean.

Young big hitters

Cricket: Maiden centuries by Noel Gie, who made 118, and Owais Shah, who was unbeaten on 114, took England to 335 for five in their first innings, and a lead of 192, at the close of the second day of the third and final under-19 international match against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo.

Seles sweeps in

Tennis: Monica Seles, the No 1 seed, cruised into the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific indoor tournament in Tokyo yesterday by beating Irina Spirlea, of Romania, 6-4, 6-2.

Run on money

Athletics: The British federation has secured a £1 million, three-year extension of Lucozade's contract. It follows the £2 million deal with Securicor, announced last month, and helps ease an expected six-figure loss for last year.

Foster awaiting drug ruling

MARK FOSTER, Great Britain's leading sprint swimmer, is waiting to hear whether a three-month suspension imposed yesterday for a positive test for cannabis taken in France last summer would disrupt his campaign for the Olympic Games in Atlanta (Craig Lord writes). The French Swimming Federation's technical committee has to decide whether the disciplinary action, imposed by France's independent sports doping commission, should be retroactive or start this month.

The latter interpretation would exclude Foster, 25, from the British grand prix meeting that begins today at Cardiff, the World Cup final in Germany a week tomorrow and the British Olympic trials at Sheffield next month. Foster has maintained that the tiny traces of cannabis found in his sample could have occurred only through passive smoking. He attended a commission hearing in France last week and, with the Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain, had understood that the action would exclude him only from competition in France.

He had had an earlier letter from Fina, the international governing body, saying as much. However, Cornel Marculescu, the director of Fina, said yesterday that Britain had misunderstood the rules. "We await France's decision and will respect our member's action," he said. "The ban would be worldwide, but I very much believe it will be retroactive."

A French federation spokesman said: "I cannot tell you the dates of the suspension because we have not discussed it yet." He confirmed that one month would be suspended.

Dave Haller, Foster's coach, said: "Mark came back from the hearing believing everything was fine and dandy."

Woodhall seeks right to title

RICHIE WOODHALL, the European middleweight boxing champion from Telford, will have to go back to school to learn how to deal with southpaws after his performance against Derek Wormald on Tuesday (Srikumar Sen writes).

In spite of a distinguished amateur career — he won a Commonwealth Games gold medal and an Olympic bronze, losing to Roy Jones, regarded as the best boxer in the world today — Woodhall has problems with southpaws.

He stopped Wormald, 29, in the tenth round of the contest at Aston Villa, but only after struggling for six of them to take control. Woodhall said: "He did give me some reason for concern, but I did not have much preparation for a southpaw — only a couple of weeks as Wormald was called in as a replacement."

As World Boxing Council No 1 contender, Woodhall has a world title bout in June against Quincy Taylor, the champion, who not only leads with his right but also has a knockout punch.

From now on, it will be nothing but learning how to beat Taylor. Mickey Duff, Woodhall's manager, said: "I think I'll give him one voluntary defence against a southpaw and then give up the European title to concentrate on Taylor." Woodhall said: "I'm not ready for the world title. I need another couple of fights first. By June, 'southpaw' will be tattooed on my forehead."

As the Telford man was barely able to land a blow for the first six rounds, attempting to get past the right of Wormald, he will need to.

Wormald suffered a truly tragic blow when he learnt after the bout that Peter McEllhinney, his trainer, who collapsed in the corner with a heart attack, had died.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

A international
Scotland v France
(at Myreside, Edinburgh, 2.30)

Under-21 international
Scotland v France
(at Myreside, Edinburgh, 1.0)

Tour match
Leinster v New South Wales
(at Lansdowne Road, 7.15)

Representative matches
England Univs v Wales Univs
(at Richmond RFC, 2.30)
England Students v Wales Students
(at Rosslyn Park RFC, 7.0)

TENNENTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Regional League: West: Glasgow Southern v Kilmarnock. East: South Peebles v Selkirk.

CLUB MATCHES: Abertillery v Blaina (7.0); Askeans v Park House, Bedford v Saracens (8.0), Berry Hill v Stroud (7.0). Builth Wells v Llandovery (7.0). Cambridge Univ v Sale (7.15). Cross Keys v Tredegar (7.0), Gala v Kelso (7.15), Glenrothes v Kirkcaldy (7.0); Gloucester v Pontypool (7.0), Jed-Forest v Melrose (7.15), Langholm v Hawick (7.0); Leicester v Coventry (7.15), Lichfield v Stoke (2.0), Llanharan v Pyle (7.0), London Irish v South Wales Police, Lydney v Moseley (7.0), Musselburgh v Dunfermline (7.0); Newport v Oakdale (7.0); Pontypridd v Bristol (7.0); Richmond v Met Police, Stourbridge v Nottingham; Swansea v Bath (7.0). Treorchy v Cheltenham (7.0); Walsall v Longton (2.0), Wasps v Bridgend.

FOOTBALL

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shelbourne v Derry (7.45)

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Shoreham v Southwick (7.30)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Adidas Victory Shield under-15 international: England v Wales (at Portsmouth FC, 7.15). English Schools Goodyear under-18 Trophy: Park House, Berkshire v Count Moor, Hampshire (1.45). English girls' Vimto under-16 Trophy: Harlescott, Shropshire v King Charles I HS, Worcs (2.0).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA indoor championships (National Arena, Birmingham)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London Towers v Birmingham Bullets (8.0).
BOWLS: Masters pairs (Co Antrim).
HOCKEY: AEWHA indoor championships: Under-18: Group A: Coopers Coborn, Pansley RC, Wakefield GH, Henry Cort, Budehaven. Group B: Tonbridge GS, The Chase, Clitheroe RG, Newlands, Gordano (Crystal Palace, 3.0).
SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).
SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (Cardiff)

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Insurance Companies Act 1982
Private Patients Plan Limited
Transfer of General Business

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Private Patients Plan Limited applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 1st February 1996 for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to PPP healthcare all of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the United Kingdom on or before 31st January 1996 except policies where the risk is situated outside the United Kingdom.
2. Copies of the statement of particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at any of the following locations until 4th March 1996 from Mondays to Fridays between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00pm:

Tunbridge Wells
Private Patients Plan Limited
(PPP healthcare)
PPP house
Vale Road
Tunbridge Wells TN1 1BJ

London
Private Patients Plan Limited
(PPP healthcare)
Tavistock House South
Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9LJ

Leeds
Private Patients Plan Limited
(PPP healthcare)
11 Belgrave Street
Leeds
West Yorkshire LS2 8DD

Glasgow
Private Patients Plan Limited
(PPP healthcare)
10 Claremont Terrace
Glasgow
Scotland G3 7XR

Written representations in relation to the proposed transfer may be sent to the Department of Trade and Industry's Insurance Division at 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET before 2nd April 1996. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will not make his decision as to whether to approve the transfer until after considering any representations made to him before that date.

Notice of appointment of Joint liquidators
Name of company Mercantile House Holdings Limited Nature of business Holding Company Address of registered office Kings House, 36/37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH Joint liquidators names and address Gareth Howard Hughes and Stephen James Lister Adamson, Ernst & Young Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU Date of appointment 26 January 1996. By whom appointed Creditors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Mercantile House
Holdings Limited
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested on or before 21 February 1996 to [illegible]

G.J.L. ADAMSON
G H HUGHES
Joint Liquidators

ADVANCE LIMITED (PREVIOUSLY AUTOVEYOR LIMITED) Principal Trading Address Monarch Buildings, Radnor Road, Wigston, Leicester, LE8 2XY.
Company Number 01572066
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The Jarvis Grand Hotel, Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 6ES on 14 February 1996 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be [illegible]

NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND CREDITORS OF GENERAL MEETING
WESTMINSTER PROPERTY GROUP (ESTATES) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Meetings of the members and creditors of the above named company have been summoned by the Liquidator under Section 584 of the Companies Act 1985 for the purpose of receiving an account of the Liquidator's acts and dealings and of the conduct of the winding up
The meetings will be held as follows:-
Date 5 March 1996.
Time: 10.15 am (Members)
10.30 am (Creditors)
Place: Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR
A member or creditor entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf. This must be lodged with me not later than 12 noon on the business day before the meeting.
Dated. 1 February 1996.
C MORRIS, Liquidator
WESTMINSTER PROPERTY GROUP (ESTATES) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

Rooll Zilkha Group Limited
Registered Number:2706285. Trading Name. Rooll Zilkha. Nature of Business: Clothing retail and wholesale. Trade Classification, 17. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s). 26 January 1996. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): National Westminster Bank plc. Type of Security. Fixed and Floating Charge Debenture. Date of Security: 23 October 1995 Name of persons appointed: L A Manning and S V Freakley of Buchler Phillips 84 Grosvenor Street London W1X 9DF. (Office Holder Nos: 6477 and 8291)

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
DISCAIN ENGINEERING PLC
formerly **DISCAIN ENGINEERING LIMITED**
(IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Neville Barry Kahn and John Colin Mannin Bishop of Cork Gully, Hill House, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth BH2 6HR were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named Company on 26 January 1996 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 30 January 1996
NEVILLE BARRY KAHN and
JOHN COLIN MANNIN BISHOP
Joint Liquidators

LEEFAB ENGINEERING LTD
AND
SYSTEK CONTROLS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that meetings of the creditors of the above named companies will be held at The Jarvis Grand Hotel, Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 6ES on 14th February 1996 at 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm respectively for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986
A list of the names and addresses of the companies creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Touche Ross & Co. of St John's House, East Street, Leicester, LE1 6NG during the two business days preceding the above meetings
Dated 30th January 1996.
By Order of the Board.
J A STABLER, Director

HAMMOND INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that Meetings of Members and of Creditors will be held at 15 Cavendish Square, London, W1M 9DA on 8 FEBRUARY 1996 at 11.00 and 11.30 in the forenoon for the purposes mentioned in Section 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Christopher Guy Adams of C. G. Adams Associates, 15 Cavendish Square W1M 9DA is a person qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the Company who will, during the period before the day of the Meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
By Order of the Board
(G THOMPSON)

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
I & A FABRICATIONS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 15 February 1996 at 4. Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
DATED 25 day of January 1996
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
A. COOPER, Director.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF JOINT LIQUIDATORS AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
ROUNDSTONE CONTRACTORS LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: 2 Albany Crescent, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0PF.
Company Number: 02486109
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 23 January 1996 C Morris and A Price were appointed joint liquidators of the above named company (creditors' voluntary winding up)
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to me at the following address under reference:- NDN/CJT/
C Morris,
Deloitte & Touche,
PO Box 810,
Cedric House,
8-9 East Harding Street,
London EC4A 3AS

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GODWIN, ALBERT THOMAS of 7 MOSSWAY, BEACONSFIELD, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP9 1TG died on 14 DECEMBER 1995 particulars to ROWE & MAW Solicitors of 20 BLACK FRIARS LANE, LONDON EC4V 6HD before 4TH APRIL 1996

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Rivals vie for Vase spotlight

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

RIVALRY does not come much more intense than that between Flixton and Trafford. The extra edge to the inevitable competition between clubs that lie little more than a mile apart in Manchester comes from Trafford's birth just six years ago as a new venture by disaffected members of Flixton.

The clubs are jostling at the top of the North West Counties League, Flixton heading the first division with Trafford in fourth place, eight points behind but with four matches in hand.

Nor is either club prepared to yield the limelight in the fifth round of the FA Carlsberg Vase tomorrow. It is a rare feat to reach the last 16 of a national cup competition, but, when Flixton managed it for the first time, Trafford, in their third Vase season, did so too.

Flixton have home advantage against Barwell, of the Midland Alliance, at their Valley Road ground. Trafford, having finally seen off Selby Town 3-0 in a second replay, must travel to Brigg Town, another Northern Counties East League side.

Flixton went through further upheavals two years ago when its social committee dismissed the manager. The football committee resigned, but John Mitchell, who had been with the club since its formation, in 1960, formed a new committee and brought in Dalton Steele as manager.

Steele, a former assistant manager at Stalybridge Celtic, launched a roll of success that has taken Flixton out of the second division as champions into direct confrontation with Trafford. The clubs have yet to meet in the league, but Flixton won the first part of the on-field argument 3-1 in the Manchester Premier Cup on Tuesday.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Phoenix 120 Atlanta 84; Boston 131 Vancouver 98; Cleveland 81 Milwaukee 71; Utah 98 Portland 94; San Antonio 115 LA Clippers 106.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester 68 Sheffield 91.

BOXING

BIRMINGHAM: European middleweight championship: Richie Woodhall (Telford, holder) bt Derek Wormald (Rochdale) rsc 10th. Cruiser (8rnds): Robert Norton (Stourbridge) bt Gary Williams (Nottingham) ko 2nd. Middle (6 rnds) Howard Eastman (Battersea) bt Paul Wesley (Birmingham) ko 1st. Super-feather (6 rnds): Brian Robb (Telford) bt Chris Lyons (Birmingham) pts.

CRESTA RUN

PRINCE PHILIP TROPHY: 1, RAF 697.22sec; 2, Royal Navy 700.08; 3, Army 712.78.

LORD TRENCHARD TROPHY: 1, T Lawrence 167.06; 2, M Maddock 167.68; 3, T Hill 168.79.

HARLAND TROPHY: 1, G Chisholm 160.00; 2, Lord Wrottesley 160.73; 3, L Lindsay 162.56

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa 0 Liverpool 2; Nottingham Forest 2 Leeds United 1, Southampton 1 Manchester City 1; West Ham United 3 Coventry City 2.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Luton 1 Sheffield United 0. Second division: Bradford 2 Crewe 1.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern section semi-final: Shrewsbury Town 4 Hereford United 1.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Gateshead 3 Morecambe 0

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Hamilton 0 St Johnstone 1; Hearts 1 Partick 0, Clyde 3 Dundee 1.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: St Mirren 0 Greenock Morton 1. Second division: East Fife 1 Queen of South 2. Third division: Brechin 0 Arbroath 1; East Stirling 1 Alloa 0.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: Semi-finals: Tunisia 4 Zambia 2 (at Durban); South Africa 3 Ghana 0 (in Johannesburg).

OCEANIA OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: Australia 0 New Zealand 1 (in Adelaide).

SPANISH CUP: Quarter final, first leg: Tenerife 0 Atletico Madrid 0.

PORTUGUESE CUP: Sixth round: Sporting Lisbon 4 Campomaiorense 1; Vitória Guimarães 1 Belenenses 0; Maritimo 2 Vila Real 0; Lamego 1 FC Porto 1

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow 1 Bromley 3. First division: Ruislip Manor 2 Bognor Regis 0

FA TROPHY: First round: Second replays: Dover 1 Cheltenham 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: League Cup: Group one: first round: Porthmadog 3 Bangor City 0.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Larne 0 Ballymena 0.

SUNLIFE GOLD CUP: Semi-final: Cliftonville 2 Linfield 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich 0 Bristol City 3, Norwich 2 Crystal Palace 0; Oxford Utd 0 Portsmouth 0, Wimbledon 1 Millwall 1. Second division: Swansea 1 Bath 1, Plymouth 2 Bournemouth 0

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Cambridge Utd 3 Crawley 2; Gillingham 2 Brentford 2; Wokingham 1 Barnet 2. President's cup: Second round: Woking 0 Leyton Orient 5.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Feltham 2 Peppard 4.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Cowes Sports 0 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 0.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Old Boys League 3 London Financial FA 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Manchester United 2 Blackburn Rovers 1. Second division: Preston 2 Rotherham 0; Sunderland 2 Leicester 0; York 1 Huddersfield 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round replay: Enfield 0 Hereford 2.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Surrey 0 Kent 2. English Schools FA Snickers under-19 Trophy: First round: Hampton (Surrey) 1 Erith (Kent) 2; King Alfred's (Oxon) 1 Bournside (Gloucs) 0. Second round: Christ The King (Inner London) 4 Borden GS (Kent) 0.

GOLF

PERTH: Heineken Classic: First round (Australia unless stated): 66: W Smith, G Turner (NZ). 67: R Gibson (Ca). 68: M Davis (Eng), G Evans (Eng), A Hunter (Scot). 69: S Laycock, D Hill, M Litton (Eng), R Pampling, C Jones, J Lomas (Eng), E Mizuguchi (Japan), P McGinley (Ire), B Hughes, I Woosman (Wales), F Nobilo (NZ), S Bottomley (Eng), D Fardon. 70: R Stephens, A Sherborne (Eng), D Small (NZ), M Harwood, R McFarlane (Eng), M Goggin, B Ogle, S Richardson (Eng), S Tait, C Dennis (US), M Jonzon (Swe), S Owen (NZ), R Boxall (Eng), S Ames (Trin), A Painter, P O'Malley, R Green, D Robertson (Scot), L Wastle. 71: M Roberts, J Senior, J Townsend (US), A Stoltz, D Cole, E Droop, K Valentine, J Daly (US), R Willis, I Pyman (Eng), S Bouvier, O Rojahn (Nor), P Price (Wales), W Grady, P Haugsrud (Nor), D Bransdon, S Leaney, S Porch. Other scores: 72: G Orr (Scot), A Coltart (Scot), P Eales (Eng), R Chapman (Eng), R Burns (N Ire). 73: S Webster (Eng), G Norman (Aus), D Clarke (N Ire), D Carter (Eng), J Payne (Eng), P Baker (Eng). 74: L Westwood (Eng), P Affleck (Wales), S Cage (Eng), R Rafferty (N Ire). 75: D Russell (Eng), B Jackson (Eng). 76: R Claydon (Eng). 77: P Broadhurst (Eng), M McLean (Eng)

PORT EDWARD, South Africa: Wild Coast Challenge: First round: (SA unless stated). 65: K Slone, P Moore (US). 66: W Westner, W Schutte, N Kamungeremu (Zim); G Paterson (US). 67: R McCann (US), W Bradley, I Palmer, N van Rensburg, M McNulty (Zim), H Baiocchi, M Archer (GB), P Friedlander (Swazi), N Gandy, T Dodds (Nam), B Vaughan (US).

HOCKEY

SCHOOLS MATCH: KCS Wimbledon 5 Seaford 3; Bryanston 4 Milton Abbey 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 6 Florida 1; Montreal 5 Washington 3; Boston 3 Ottawa 1. Tampa Bay 4 Pittsburgh 1; St Louis 4 Toronto 0; Dallas 1 NY Rangers 1 (OT); Chicago 4 Edmonton 0; Anaheim 2 Colorado 1; Hartford 6 Los Angeles 4.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Durham 10 Humberside 3.

NORDIC SKIING

ASIAGO, Italy: world junior championships: Men (10km): 1, P Elofsson (Swe) 27min 42.80sec; 2, M Bajcicak (Slovakia) 27:46.30; 3, S Carrara (It) 28:04.90. Women (5km): 1, M Puukilainen (Fin) 15:01.80; 2, K Smigun (Est) 15:24.20; 3, J Tchepalova (Russ) 15:25.70.

REAL TENNIS

HATFIELD HOUSE: Henry Leaf public schools doubles championship: Semi-finals: Charterhouse I (N Pendrigh and A Roberts-Miller) bt Winchester II (M Ward and H Angus) 6-3 6-1. Haileybury I (R Gunn and W Hollington) bt Winchester I (A Lovell and P Seabrook) 6-4 6-5

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Dewsbury 12 London Broncos 10

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Civil Service 24 Royal Navy 40; Combined London OB 24 RAF 14.

SNOOKER

NEWPORT: Regal Welsh Open: Quarter-finals: M Williams (Wales) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 5-3; J Parrott bt G Dott (Scot) 5-2; D Harold (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wales) 5-2.

SWIMMING

MALMOE, Sweden: World Cup short-course meeting: Winners: Men: 50m freestyle: Y Bruck (Isr) 22.60. 200m freestyle: C Fydler (Aus) 1:48.27. 100m breaststroke: G Schmid (US) 1:02.20. 100m butterfly: D Silantiev (Ukr) 53.24. 50m backstroke: T Karlo (Cro) 25.51. 200m medley: J Sievinen (Fin) 1:55.44. Women: 100m freestyle: L Olofsson (Swe) 56.12. 400m freestyle: I Dalby (Nor) 4:08.06. 50m breaststroke: T Miller (Nor) 32.23. 200m breaststroke: A Peczak (Pol) 2:27.47. 100m backstroke: M Jacobsen (Den) 1:00.32. 200m butterfly: A Kennedy (Aus) 2:12.00. 400m medley: E Overton (Aus) 4:39.51.

TENNIS

SHANGHAI: Men's tournament: Second round: J Tarango (US) bt D Sapsford (GB) 5-7, 6-0, 6-3; M Ondruska (SA) bt L Jonsson (Swe) 6-3, 6-1. Quarter-final: T Henman (GB) bt M Petchey (GB) 6-1, 7-6.

ZAGREB: Men's tournament: First round: G Forget (Fr) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-2, 7-6; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 7-6. Second round: F de Wulf (Bel) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 6-3; C Pioline (Fr) bt J Van Herck (Bel) 6-3, 6-3; C-U Steeb (Ger) bt M Damm (Cz) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6; Forget bt T Kempers (Holl) 7-5, 6-4; G Raoux (Fr) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

TOKYO: Women's tournament: Second round: M Hingis (Switz) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-0, 6-3; L Davenport (US) bt L Raymond (US) 6-1, 6-3; M Seles (US) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-4, 6-2; I Majoli (Cro) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) 7-6, 7-5; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) w o N Bradtke (Aus) scr; M Maleeva (Bul) bt G Fernandez (US) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

LIPPSTADT, Germany: ATP Challenger tournament (selected result): Second round: R Vasek (Cz) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 6-1, 6-7, 6-2.

THE TIMES

RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times

Asprilla's transfer blocked by insurance

By David Maddock

NEWCASTLE United's intended £7.6 million purchase of Faustino Asprilla, the Colombia international, has reached an impasse because of complications with insurance. The player's proposed transfer from Parma has been delayed for nearly a week, with little prospect of an immediate solution.

The reason, it transpires, is that Newcastle have been unable to secure adequate insurance cover for a player who will command such a significant fee. Scans taken of Asprilla's knee at the medical that he underwent last Friday revealed a congenitial problem that could lead to an arthritic condition.

The problem is unlikely to affect the forward's performance in the foreseeable future and Newcastle are still keen to complete the deal. The club's insurance company, however, is unwilling to provide cover for a player rated among the most expensive in the world when he is suffering a condition that has implications for his playing future.

Asprilla: knee condition

It leaves the FA Carling Premiership leaders with a dilemma that they are unable to solve at present. They have given their word to complete the deal, but are unable to do so because they cannot take the gamble of paying such a huge fee for a player without the safety net of insurance. Efforts continue to thrash out a compromise with the insurers and Parma.

Sources in Parma confirmed last night that the insurance issue had become a sticking block. "We understand that Newcastle are attempting to find a way of negotiating a solution to the problem and we are hopeful the deal will still go ahead," the club's media spokesman said.

Newcastle had imposed a news blackout on the deal over the past seven days, but they broke their silence yesterday when Sir John Hall, the club chairman, confirmed that, while the situation had reached an impasse, they were still hopeful of completing the transfer.

"The board are handling negotiations as they always do when they get to this stage," he said. "There are still a number of matters to be resolved to our satisfaction. We are running a business and we must be left to get on with it."

Sir John dismissed as "absolute rubbish" suggestions that the medical examination uncovered separate problems relating to Asprilla's private life. The player's advisors are looking into such accusations to see if they are actionable.

The player's advisors are clearly worried that the insurance question may eventually scupper the deal. Parma officials were reported to be on their way to Newcastle last night, with evidence that they suggest will prove that the knee problem will have no bearing on the forward's career. "He could play for 15 years without being affected," the spokesman said.

Eric Cantona returns to Selhurst Park tomorrow for his first visit since the infamous night, a year ago, when be ventured into the Crystal Palace crowd and kicked a supporter. Police have contingency plans to deal with any Palace suppporters attempting to attend Manchester United's fixture with Wimbledon intent on causing trouble.

Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, believes that such measures should not be necessary. He attempted to appease any rogue supporters by pleading with them to understand the Frenchman. "People have only one picture of Eric — it is that he is a bully," he said. "They say he is good at football, but he is a hooligan.

"It is completely untrue. He is a gentleman. I see a very different person from the picture that has been painted. I know him, I train with him and he doesn't deserve the image. I'm not saying that I would have gone into the crowd, but I fully understand why he did it. The pressure on him is enormous."

☐ Birmingham City will today aim to persuade an FA commission of inquiry not to close their St Andrew's ground when they answers charges of misconduct over crowd trouble there when they played Millwall on November 4. If found guilty, Birmingham face a heavy fine and the threat of ground closure.

Tunisia revel in the sound of silence

Two young spectators leave no doubt as to where their loyalties lie as South Africa, *Bafana Bafana*, take on Ghana. Photograph: Juda Ngwenya

FREUD ON FRIDAY

In South Africa, soccer is a black game. The receptionist in the hotel where I am staying said: "I am keen on soccer; it is the same as hockey, so I understand it." Around her, the others shook their heads and said: "It's not like rugby or cricket."

That was earlier in the week. What makes the African Nations Cup final tomorrow required viewing (and has sold out the 80,000 capacity Johannesburg Soccer City Stadium) is that the national team, known as *Bafana Bafana* (the boys), has made it to the last shoot-out: won their group, beat Algeria in the quarter-final, demolished the *Black Stars* of Ghana in the semi and have only Tunisia between them and glory.

Tunisia do not even have a nickname. Tunisia are only 31st in the world rankings. Tunisia have a Polish manager. The average age of Tunisia's team is 22. Were a Tunisian club coach shipping in supporters for the final, it would have to have left ten days ago … so they are lonely and unloved, and also considered plum lucky to have beaten Gabon on penalties to enter the last four.

On Wednesday afternoon, they were due to exit this competition courtesy of mighty Zambia at the Kingsmead rugby stadium in Durban, and as forecasts about attendance were pessimistic — less of a follow-the-crowd than a what-time-can-you-get-along occasion — I went.

My driver dropped me where the police had erected a road block a quarter of a mile from the stadium, and I shuffled past the car parks towards the entrance. There were two stalls selling fast food, one man and his daughter offering African caps and African flags. Nobody selling programmes; there were no programmes. In the shortish queue to the turnstiles, a man wearing a jacket marked "Spectator Assistance" gave me a cursory body check and told the man behind me that he could not bring in his can of Coca-Cola — bottles would be all right.

Admission was 20 or 35 Rand (you get about six to the pound) and I opted for the higher price: inside the huge stadium, nobody examined the small print on the ticket and, as the new North Stand was bathed in 90-degree sunshine and deserted, I took my seat in the less than half-full South Stand. When the teams came out, my neighbours and all their neighbours gave Zambia the big hello, so I asked about the connection between the people of Durban and what had been Northern Rhodesia.

"We are all Africans, not Arabs; anyway, they useless, they not here for long."

There was a lot of smiling and waving of the new African flag. I had bought one; I waved it.

Zambia were the classy footballers; hot favourites. They knew that they would win; wanted to show their Afro-supporters how it is done. Tunisia had a solid defence and played honest football. On the halfway line, there was a trestle table with a starched white cloth. Three men in suits sat behind it like officials at a Haitian cockfight, or uncles sitting out a *déjeuner sur l'herbe*.

We were 14 minutes into the game when Tunisia scored: a soft goal, more of a cross that snuck behind the keeper, and as this was just what those who had come did not want to see, the event was met with silence. The silence intensified when Tunisia scored again after a pathetic defensive mix-up and now the crowd was whistling, which is like Brits booing: the noise similar to that at the cage birds show at Blackpool which used to precede the Liberal Party assembly.

Half-time: as in the intervals at the old Windmill Theatre, people vaulted over seats, though here it was not to get closer to the stage. They went to the bars to return with cans of drink and the couple in front of me with a polystyrene box containing a polystyrene bun filled with a pink plastic sausage.

Second-half: Tunisia scored again. The whistling got worse. The Tunisian goalkeeper, who is also their captain, had an argument with the referee about a Zambia trainer who had gone onto the field. Elsewhere, players were falling over and staying *in situ* until they were stretchered off … to bounce up and rejoin the game.

Zambia pulled one back, shooting at the keeper who stopped it with his chin, saw the rebound slammed into the net and lay on the ground for some time.

Now, the game came to life, speeded up: every Zambia attack cheered by the crowd, for 1-3 was a deficit that could be made up.

Tunisia defended, all 11 men in their own half, and still looked dangerous on the breaks. At the end of this golden period, they were awarded a penalty, and scored.

To trail 4-1 with not long to go is beyond redemption and, by the time of the final whistle, just after a 93rd-minute goal from the Africans, not too many of us were left in the ground.

As latecomers had parked their cars across the entrance to the car parks, there were an awful lot of people outside, sort of angry and sad but looking forward to their real heroes making it all better tomorrow afternoon.

Financial support for Super League improved

By Christopher Irvine

ALTHOUGH it pales in comparison to the £87 million being spent over five years on the Super League, a £1.7 million sponsorship of the new summer rugby league competition, announced yesterday, is not an insignificant sum on the part of Stones, its provider.

Rather than going direct to the clubs, who are receiving the entire budget of the Super League agreement with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, the new three-year deal will cover operational costs incurred by the Rugby Football League (RFL). An additional £300,000 will go on a promotional campaign.

The source of prize-money for the inaugural Super League season, which starts at the end of next month, has still to be worked out. Another unresolved detail is support sponsors for the first and second divisions, as the Stones brand name of Bass brewers, which has covered the divisions for a decade, will be on the Super League alone.

Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said that there was considerable interest from at least one potential backer. "This was triggered by Super League, but there is an opportunity for companies to look at the whole of our game," he said. "There are other competitions, such as the world club championship."

The climax to the domestic season, to be contested by the leading four sides in the 12-team Super League, will be the Stones Cup, a name change from the end-of-season Premiership, which will culminate in a final at Old Trafford on September 8, in the week before the world club championship starts. The latter competition will involve the four leading European and Australasian teams.

Lindsay said: "The advent of the Stones Super League brings about a bright new future. We now have a magnificent chance to put the game where it belongs — on a world stage."

Brisbane Broncos' ANZ Stadium has emerged as the likely venue for the club championship final on September 28. There are plans to take the event to Hong Kong, Tokyo and San Francisco. Lindsay also predicts expansion, with participants from Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa and sides from New Zealand other than Auckland Warriors, the country's solitary Super League side.

Meanwhile, Bradford Bulls are close to agreeing terms with James Lowes, the Leeds hooker, one of the team's most consistent performers, even though he has been offered a new three-year deal.

SPORTS LETTERS

Educational changes have undermined English cricket

From Mr Bryan Burdett

Sir, I regret Mr Subba Row (Sports Letters, January 27) can only look forward to a further decline in English cricket in the coming decades. Structural changes in the hierarchy cannot undo the damage done in the Sixties when the new comprehensive education coincided with a change in teachers' attitudes towards non-academic pursuits and their own working hours.

Almost overnight, state schools ceased offering cricket coaching and many other after-hours facilities and the development of potentially fine cricketers was limited to the independent schools and the few remaining grammar schools. Within a few years, it was obvious what was going to happen, and my cricket club, along with many others, made a major effort to replace the lost schools' coaching and facilities — and still does.

But the increasing academic burden on the children, problems of transporting them to and from the cricket club and the shifting priorities of the adults involved have ensured that their efforts could never be enough and the flow of fine cricketers has dwindled to a fraction of what it was.

The counties began papering over the cracks by importing overseas players and the shift to limited-overs cricket has further constrained the development of Test-match skills. Socialist education policy may largely eliminate schools cricket coaching in the next decade, and our national game will be consigned to being part of our history but no longer part of our culture.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN BURDETT,
York House, 39 The Avenue,
Fareham, Hampshire.

From Mr John W. Devall

Sir, There is another principal reason for the poor performance of England's international cricketers: the climate.

English conditions are highly conducive to soft pitches, which usually assist bowlers far more than batsmen. This results in county bowlers getting their wickets too easily, ie, without being forced to learn to control line and length consistently and having to think deeply about how to remove a good batsman.

Thus, when bowlers who appear to be good in English county conditions go abroad on international duty (or face good batsmen on true pitches in a good English summer) they find themsleves outclassed by the West Indians, Australians, Pakistanis, Indians and others who have learnt their trade on hard pitches; for example, their slow bowlers really can spin the ball besides controlling line and length.

English batsmen often have to bat under conditions where the pitch as much as the bowler is responsible for the ball behaving unpredictably and where trying to play good shots is difficult except on fast, true pitches like those at the Oval. Our batsmen thus have less opportunity to bat and to learn to play against the highest quality bowlers on good pitches, which means they find shot-making and run-scoring too difficult against international opposition.

The solution is, in part, to encourage groundsmen to try to produce good, hard batting pitches and to encourage many more of our better county players to go overseas in the winter to gain experience just as the best overseas players have come here to learn how to combat our conditions (and our bowlers!).

Additionally, if the bowlers become so much better, the batsmen would automatically have to improve in order to excel even in county conditions on good pitches.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. DEVALL,
36 Woolston Drive,
Hough, Cheshire.

From Mr Philip Nind

Sir, To carry Raman Subba Row's thesis a step further, there are two dominating factors affecting the future of English cricket:

1. The fact that, sadly, money dominates any future direction and planning.
2. The need to overcome the inordinately parochial attitude of the majority of the games' organisers and administrators.

Only revolution rather than evolution will bring about a structure likely in the immediate future to raise standards of recruitment and training. To put in place the organisation implied by Mr Subba Row will need massive funds, far larger than a single sponsor can be expected to provide.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP F. NIND,
10 Albury Park,
Albury, Guildford, Surrey.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Restoring spirit of rugby

From Mr N. P. Bradshaw

Sir, A recurrent problem in modern rugby union is the tendency of the defending side to concede a penalty whenever a try is threatened. This practice leads to a scrappy game and one in which kicked penalties predominate over tries.

Attempts to correct the balance of the game by altering the scoring have not been particularly successful, so I suggest another approach.

The only benefit a side obtains when conceding a penalty is that of ending the opposition's attack. It is this which makes such tactics frustrating for players and spectators alike.

My suggestion is that if a penalty is kicked at goal the restart should not take the form of a kick-off, but rather a scrum to the kicking team at the place from which the penalty was taken. There would be many benefits from such a rule change.

First, defending teams would become much less likely to deliberately concede kickable penalties since the risk of conceding points would not be offset by territorial gain.

Second, it would be possible to reduce the points value of a penalty kick since the kicking side is guaranteed possession and position after the kick. This would make the result of the match less dominated by penalty kicking.

The final benefit would be to restore some of the spirit of rugby by making try-scoring and solid, legitimate defence the most profitable as well as the most exciting part of the game.

Yours faithfully,
N. BRADSHAW,
80 Elgin Avenue,
Maida Vale, W9.

Thing of the past

From Mr M. D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, The return of Monica Seles is to be welcomed: her presence is vital to raise the low interest in and standard of women's tennis.

So far as her mental state is concerned, I wonder how much quicker she might have been able to recover and return to the game and normal life if she had not had so many sessions with a sports therapist/counsellor.

It is hard not to conclude that such extended counselling — which appears to be continuing — has helped to keep the trauma foremost in Seles's mind, as her distress at her post-match press conference in Melbourne showed (report, January 29). Most people who have been mugged manage to go out again; nearly everyone who falls off a bicycle gets back on.

I do not believe that Seles has a chance of coming to terms with the attack on her so long as she herself, her friends, family and advisers (and the "unchivalrous" questioners to whom your report referred) refuse to treat the incident as something in the past, awful at the time and in its immediate aftermath, but clearly — nearly three years on — a thing of the past.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. VARCOE-COCKS,
5 Brackenbury Road, W6.

THE TIMES
SNOWLINE
0891 333 568
24hr skiing information direct from the resorts in:
AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND • ITALY
REST OF EUROPE • N. AMERICA/CANADA
SPAIN/ANDORRA • ROMANIA/BULGARIA
Or for a faxed report, dial:
0891 662 258
from a telephone linked to a fax machine
WEATHERLINE 0891 333 462
Comprehensive outlook in the skiing areas for the week ahead
SKI CLUB
Up-to-date information on all
Scottish ski resorts
0891 200 627

THE TIMES
Atlases of the World
Now! No handling charges and
FREE postage to all our UK customers
Offer applies United Kingdom only
Also available from good Bookshops
★★★★★★★★★★★★
The Times Atlas of the World
9th Comprehensive (De Luxe) Edn £85
7th Concise Edition (15"x11"x1.5") £45
3rd Family Edition (12.5 x9.2 x1.1) £17.99
Reference Edition (12.5 x 9.2 x 0.8) £12.99
Compact Edition (9" x 6.5" x 0.65") £8.99
Mini (Pocket) Edn (6.2 x 4.2 x 0.65) £5.99
❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑
The Times Atlas of World History £40
Concise Edition (Paperback) £14.99
Compact Edition £9.99
The Times Atlas of Archaeology £35
The Times Atlas of the Second World War
50th Anniversary Edition £27.50
The Times Atlas European History £25
The Times London History Atlas £22.99
The Times Illust. World History £25
The Times Illust. History of Europe £25
Also available ❑❑❑❑❑❑❑
The Times 1000 1996 - Top Business Guide - £35
The Times Guide to the European Parliament £25
to the Peoples of Europe £15.99
to the Single European Market £8.99
to the New British State NOW ONLY £9.99
to the Middle East £8.99
to World Organisations NEW £16.99
The Times Good University Guide 1995/6 £8.99
The Times Night Sky 1996 (Guide Booklet) £3.50
Please send cheques or postal orders (no credit cards)
payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW
Enquiries: 0181 852 4575 (24 hours)
Delivery up to 8 days (UK)

مكنا من الاعطاء

Skiers make poignant return to slopes where friend and colleague died

Britain find strength in memory of McGibbon

Andrew Longmore on a team united in grief as they prepare for the world championships

PHOTOGRAPHS: MIKE HEWITT/ALLSPORT

McKenna, who turns, in moments of despair, to a poem written by McGibbon, in action on the slopes

Just ten days after shouldering the coffin of Kirsteen McGibbon, their team-mate, into the chapel at Linn crematorium in Glasgow, the Great Britain women's Alpine skiing team has returned to the mountains that claimed their closest friend. High above the Austrian resort of Seefeld here, the five remaining women have been hurling themselves down the slopes of the Tyrol, outwardly aiming for a place in the team for the world championships in Spain in a fortnight, inwardly searching for reconciliation with a sport that has brought them immeasurable enjoyment and, since the death of "Kim" McGibbon on the Alpenmarkt downhill course on Tuesday, January 16, ultimate pain.

Some have mastered the process of understanding better than others. Lesley McKenna, who shared a childhood and a love of the mystical with McGibbon, has used her belief in cosmic paths, fairy-tales and spiritual fulfilment to gain strength from the tragedy. In moments of despair, she turns to a poem that McGibbon wrote the night before she died.

It was called the *Paths of Life*. The opening verse reads:

Always head towards the distant hills
Our future lies silhouetted on the horizon.
This inner destination
Must never be lost from sight.

"Her sister read it out at the funeral service and it gave me such a feeling of happiness," McKenna said. "It's a description of a journey and it has a lot of hidden meanings, which I think I understand. I feel Kim was on a journey and it was her time to leave the path and go wherever she's gone. Now, I feel it is time I got on and started my journey and I feel her strength." Only the message inside the Christmas card from McGibbon, opened when McKenna returned home for the funeral, threw her off balance. It read: "Flip beyond the dimensions in '96."

Shona Robertson, her wide-open young face still full of hurt, sees only the empty seat in the team van, the one behind the driver where McGibbon used to sit and which nobody else will use, and feels an irrational sense of guilt that McGibbon died on her skis, a spare pair handed on. There are other coincidences that trouble her.

> 'All I could see were the images of Kim'

On the day before McGibbon's accident, Robertson had been privately mourning the first anniversary of the death of another friend, a victim of meningitis. Then, there was the unnecessarily ebullient hugs that McGibbon had given the rest of the team when she had left for training on the Alpenmarkt, strange on reflection.

"It wasn't as if we weren't going to see her again for months, it was only a couple of days . . ," Robertson said.

The Alpenmarkt itself, much loathed by Robertson, who fractured her back on the course three years before and who knew intimately the contours of the corner that caused McGibbon's fall because she had once crashed there herself. The team drove past the course in silence on the way from Salzburg to Seefeld last week, another little milestone on the road to acceptance.

It is impossible to be in the company of this team without being touched by the nobility and sheer innocence of their courage. Whatever the whizkid image portrayed by the multicoloured figures on *Ski Sunday*, reality for the also-rans is six-to-a-room *pensions* and endless trawls for the cheapest meal in town.

This week, spent in the lap of luxury at the £130-a-night Vital Hotel Royal, is an exception, provided courtesy of a sponsorship deal with Emma Carrick-Anderson, the team's gifted slalom specialist. Most will be in hock to their passion by summertime, a reflection of how weighted are the odds against them. "Why," they ask silently, "should anyone want to pick on us again?"

The closeness of the group has heightened the cruelty of the blow just as it has lent strength to the convalescence. At 22, Marjory Adam, from Falkirk, is the oldest; at 17, Tessa Pirie, like Robertson from Aberdeen, is the youngest.

During a succession of halcyon winters, when the snow was lush and the club system in Scotland thriving, McGibbon, McKenna and Carrick-Anderson frolicked together on the nursery slopes at Aviemore. They have been inseparable since childhood and all admit that the circle has been drawn tighter by tragedy.

"We've all talked about it, just naturally," Carrick-Anderson said. "I had a dream about the accident, so we talked about that and, in the first few nights back here, no one could sleep; so we talked. It's easier now. I just feel that Kim's not here now, but she'll be back soon."

For Robertson, the first race back, last weekend, was the hardest moment. "I was at the start and trying to visualise the course in my mind, but all I could see was images of Kim," she said.

None have seriously considered giving up the sport, partly because they knew that McGibbon would not want it that way, partly because it is their lives. Their first tentative steps back were taken on a weekend at Aviemore, canoeing and rock climbing. The decision to resume racing was unspoken. Slowly, the banter has resumed, the self-consciousness been eased, the sights reset. Training sessions this week have, by common consent, been as hard and rewarding as any this season.

"We found a water bottle in the van the other day," Clare Bailey, one of the team coaches, said. "It turned out to be Kim's, but at least they were talking about it. They've helped each other out and we've tried to keep them busy. I think it's been 100 per cent better these last couple of days."

McGibbon's death has also prompted an important reshuffling of priorities. "Kim was just 20," Carrick-Anderson said. "It makes you realise that every day is important even if it's a bad day. The last couple of races I've felt more relaxed because I know there's a lot worse things can happen than losing a race."

Tomorrow, the team moves to Italy before the final preparations for Spain. Wherever they go, McGibbon's spirit will not be far away. Whatever the result, the overpowering feeling is that the greater victory has already been won in the Tyrol this past week.

Carrick-Anderson: gifted

McGibbon: tragic accident

Robertson: guilt

Playing it by the book

Speaking Volumes. *Radio 2, 7.00pm.*

This is a books quiz that isn't — or at least, that isn't entirely. True, there are questions and answers about books and their writers; but mainly the four panellists are invited by Sarah Kennedy, the chairwoman, to contribute their thoughts about professional penmanship in general. Thomas Keneally, for instance, expands on literary awards and on whether he was happy about the film of his novel *Schindler's Ark*. Andrew Morton reveals that, when writing, it is Dundee cake and fig rolls that keep him going. Meanwhile, back in the quiz, the questions swing between the easy (what was the speckled band in the Sherlock Holmes story?) to the positively tricky (how did P.G. Wodehouse describe the discipline of writing?).

Journeys Into Space: Beam Me Up Scotty. *Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.*

For the sake of convenience as much as to ensure accuracy, John Peel sub-divides his anatomy of space age culture into three decades: the 1930s, 1950s, and 1960s — the periods when popular culture and pseudo-science became intertwined. Space Age 1 was the decade of Buck (originally Anthony) Rogers and the disintegrator guns that went "Zapp!". Space Age 2 was the rock 'n' roll decade when extraterrestrials landed to teach Earthlings how to do the Twist, and housewives were cool operatives pushing buttons on a culinary console. Space Age 3 brought Doctor Who, *Lost in Space*, rocket-shaped lollies and Moon Girls in silver trousers.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl **6.15** The Net **7.00** Essential Selection **10.00** John Peel **1.00am** Radio 1 Rap Show **4.00-6.00** Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Speaking Volumes. See Choice **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** Whisky Galore! (7/8) **9.00** Listen to the Band. Desford Colliery Band under Major Peter Parkes **10.00** Alan Titchmarsh: Radio 2 Arts Programme. **12.05am** Digby Fairweather **1.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl **6.55**, **7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, with Diana Madill, incl Video Review, Euronews and at **11.30** Chain Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **8.35** Off Piste **9.05** American Graffiti **9.35** Stop Press **10.05** Entertainment Superhighway **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **11.35** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Short Story — *Two Friends* **7.30** Surviving the 20th Century **8.00** News **8.10** Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News in German **9.15** Faith **9.45** Sports **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Short Story — *Two Friends* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: Alternative **3.00** *News in German* **3.15** Music Review **4.00** World News **4.15** *The World Today* **4.30** *News in German* **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** *News in German* **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** *Multitrack: Alternative* **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Surviving the 20th Century **11.45** The Farming World **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Seven Days **1.30** Jazz **1.45** Good Books **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Vintage Chart Show **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Jazz **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyle **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Including Sibelius (Lemminkainen's Return): Vaughan Williams (Flos Campi); Vivaldi (Concerto in G minor, RV310); Part (Festina lente); **8.05** Moszkowski (Tarantella); Fayrfax (Maris plena virtute)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Including Boccherini (La ritirata di Madrid, Guitar Quintet in C: Pepe Romero, guitar, Academy of St Martin Chamber Ensemble); Mozart (Violin Concerto No 5 in A: Gidon Kremer, violin, Vienna PO, under Nikolaus Harnoncourt); Weill (Suite, The Threepenny Opera: London Sinfonietta under David Atherton)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Including Busoni (Comedy Overture); Franz (In meinem Garten; Die Lotosblume); **10.13** *Artist of the Week*: Philip Fowke, piano, Schubert (Sonata in A, D664); **10.37** Verdi (Te Deum, Quattro pezzi sacri); Casella (Scarlattiana); Ramsey (When David Heard); Tchaikovsky (Fate); Joseph Marx (Selige Nacht); Johann Strauss, son, arr Schulz-Evler (Concert Arabesque on Themes from The Blue Danube)

12.00 Composer of the Week. Janáček (Violin Concerto, Pilgrimage of the Soul; From the House of the Dead; String Quartet No 2, Intimate Letter)

1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester, live from the Concert Hall, New Broadcasting House. Mayumi Seiler, violin, Caroline Palmer, piano, perform Prokofiev (Five Melodies, Op 35a); Schubert (Fantasia in C, D934)

2.00 Schools: Let's Make a Story **2.15** Music Box **2.30** Dance Workshop **2.50** Poetry Corner

3.00 Mining the Archive. Susan Sharpe introduces recordings made by the master pianist Shura Cherkassky

4.20 By the Waters of Babylon. The Rev Alan Walker visits the Ukrainian Greek Catholic community just off of Oxford Street in London (5/9)

4.30 Brazil: The Roots of Samba. Pulinho da Viola looks back at the development of samba in Rio at the beginning of the century

5.00 The Music Machine in New Orleans. With Sarah Walker

5.15 In Tune with Jeremy Nicholas

7.30 Orchestre de Paris under Semyon Bychkov, with Maxim Vengerov, violin, live from the Barbican Hall, London. Gilbert Amy (Trois scènes pour orchestre); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor); **8.20** Twentieth-Century Masterworks. Steve Martland talks about Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* (r); **8.40** Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring)

9.30 Cultural Baggage: Anorak

9.50 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker introduces a concert marking the 50th birthday of the composer and pianist Michael Finnissy; and friends and colleagues of British pianist John Tilbury, talk of his work as he reaches his 60th birthday

12.00-1.00am Sekt, Smoke, Satire. Fifth in a six-part series on the history of cabaret

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30**, **7.00**, **7.30**, **8.00**, **8.30** News **6.55**, **7.55** Weather **7.25**, **8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs with Julian Barnes (r)

9.45 Feedback, presented by Chris Dunkley

10.00-10.30 News; Journeys Into Space: Beam Me Up Scotty (FM only). See Choice

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced from Manchester by Sheila McClennon. Serial: *Mother of Pearl*, by Mary Morrisey (12/12)

11.30 The Natural History Programme with Joanna Pinnock

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm The Food Programme, presented by Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Classic Serial: Sunset Song, by Lewis Grassic Gibbon, dramatised by Brian McCabe. With Vicki Masson. (2/2) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow visits a Maggi Hambling exhibition as she makes her first bronze sculptures

4.45 Short Story: Web Central by Fay Weldon. Read by Oliver Ford Davies

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week, with Christopher Serle

8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. On the panel are Victoria Glendinning, biographer and novelist; Sir Bernard Ingham, journalist and broadcaster; Francis Maude, former Financial Secretary to the Treasury; and Labour MP Dennis Skinner

8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins

9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. A celebration of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. With readings from the poem by Ralph Richardson and Richard Burton (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in the Time of Cholera, by Gabriel García Márquez (15/15)

11.00 Week Ending. News satire with Sally Grace, Toby Longworth, Jon Glover and Peter Silverleaf

11.25 Fourth Column

11.45 Today in Parliament

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: The Drowned World. Nicholas Farrell reads J.G. Ballard's adventure (10/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	40	90	good	varied	good	sun	-1	27/1
(Good skiing under sunny skies; powder still available)								
Schladming	20	40	fair	crust	art	fine	0	28/1
(Icy patches low down but runs mostly OK)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	30	160	fair	varied	icy	fair	-4	22/1
(Cold and windy with mixed visibility; hard/icy snow)								
La Tania	10	50	fair	varied	closed	cloud	-3	1/2
(Soft snow on hard base; mixed visibility)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	100	300	powder	powder	good	sun	-11	1/2
(Excellent skiing and snow; plentiful powder available)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	0	110	hard	varied	closed	fair	-2	7/1
(Very windy with windblown snow; snow forecast)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Answers from page 35

AGILA

(b) A resin or resinous wood, from the Portuguese *palo de aquila*. *Cf. eagle-wood* and *agalloch*. "The Siam Coast produces much Agila and Sapan-woods."

DOUROUCOULI

(c) Any of several South and Central American monkeys of the genus *Aotus*, characterised by large, staring eyes, long, non-prehensile tails, and nocturnal habits: the night-monkey or owl-monkey. A South American Indian name. "Finnicky small mammals, such as marmosets and douroucoulis."

CARBONADO

(c) A dark, opaque variety of diamond, found near Bahia in Brazil, used in rock-drilling and stone-polishing. The Portuguese name. "A considerable quantity of a black substance was found, of specific gravity like the Diamond, but lamellar. It was termed Carbonado by the discoverers from its charcoal like appearance."

DUPLEX QUERELA

(c) Legal Latin for literally "a twofold complaint". "When the bishop doth refuse, or unduly delay to admit and institute a clerk to the church to which he is presented, the clerk may have his remedy against the bishop in the ecclesiastical court, complaining to the judge of appeals thereof; the judge is wont to write to the bishop in the form of law, and this writing they call a duplex querela. This duplex querela is to contain a monition to the bishop."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. . . . Rc1+; 2. Kh2 Rxg2+!; 3. Rxg2 Nf3 mate.

TONIGHT AT 10.15PM THE AVERAGE PERSON WON'T BE MAKING THE TEA.

4 6

NEWS AT TEN, C4 OR A CABLE AND SATELLITE STATION.*

*TIMES MAY VARY

OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN CARMICHAEL

Sir John Carmichael, KBE, civil servant, businessman and golfer, died on January 6 aged 85. He was born on April 22, 1910.

JOHN CARMICHAEL returned to his native Scotland from Sudan in the late 1950s. The experience he had gained in Africa as a civil servant and financial and economic adviser to the first post-independence Sudanese Government made him a welcome addition to the boardrooms of several top British companies. Besides his time at Fisons — where he was chief executive, 1962-66 — he served the fishing, gas, jute and chemical industries.

Carmichael was also a first-class golfer, who played off a single-figure handicap. He could often be seen striding around the Old Course at St Andrews, and won the Royal and Ancient's Jubilee Vase there in 1964. He was captain of the Royal and Ancient, 1974-75.

John Carmichael was born in St Andrews and educated there at Madras College. He graduated from St Andrews University with first class honours in mathematics and physics. He was given his rugby Blue, and had a trial for the Scottish team. Although he never won a cap, he was a reserve on 13 occasions.

After a year on a Commonwealth Fellowship at the University of Michigan, he returned to Britain and joined Guardian Assurance. Then in 1936 he decided on a complete change of career. He joined the Sudanese Civil Service, and went out to Sudan, where his duties included a spell as Permanent Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Finance. In that post Carmichael was given a free rein to develop his business skills. He used to joke that, on one occasion during the Second World War, he was involved in selling the entire cotton crop.

Sudan was one of the few African countries to retain the service of some British civil servants after independence. Carmichael stayed on after 1956, and Ismail al-Azhari, the first Prime Minister, later fondly described him as "the white man in our woodpile". But in 1959 Carmichael returned to Scotland and bought a house at Balmullo, just outside St Andrews. There he cultivated a handsome garden, full of all the known species of heather in Scotland. He was appointed to the UK delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the following year, 1960, joined Fisons as a non-executive director, initially as chairman of its pest-control subsidiary in Sudan.

Two years later he was made chief executive of Fisons, succeeding Avison Wormald. Carmichael brought in George Burton as his deputy chief executive, and, while Burton concentrated on overseas trade, Carmichael turned his mind to the home market.

Wormald had already begun the process of diversification of Fisons interests, and Carmichael continued the process. For the past century, the Fisons market had been largely UK-based. Carmichael made it more of an international player, and he spent a good deal of time abroad, travelling with Burton to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganda. By-products to the Fisons fertiliser range were introduced, and included weedkillers, shampoos and specialised food products. While other British companies struggled through a lean period, Fisons remained in healthy shape throughout the mid-1960s. After George Burton had succeeded as chief executive in 1966, Carmichael became deputy chairman for six years, and then reverted to his old status on the board as non-executive director until 1980.

Fisons was one in a growing number of board appointments. By the late 1960s, Carmichael had been brought onto the board of Jute Industries (renamed Sidlaw Industries in 1969), and groomed by Sir William Walker, the outgoing chairman, as heir apparent. He was appointed chairman in 1970 and remained in the post for the next decade.

Carmichael's main achievement at Sidlaw was to transform it from an old-fashioned textile business, based in Dundee, to a major provider of services to the nascent oil industry in Scotland. When he arrived, jute, the product on which the business's fortunes were founded, was increasingly being provided not by Dundee companies but by those in Bangladesh and Calcutta. Diversification was the only option if the company was not to sink with the rest of the industry.

In 1972 Carmichael organised the lease (subsequently the purchase) of reclaimed land within the port area of Peterhead, north of Aberdeen. The company began to organise the logistics of the management of these ports, and so got involved, at just the right moment, in North Sea oil. The period from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s was one of substantial growth for Sidlaw, much of it attributable to Carmichael's timely initiative.

He was also chairman of the Herring Advisory Board, 1960-63, and deputy chairman of the Independent Television Authority, 1960-63. By the mid-1970s he had reduced his commitments in the South and was concentrating his energies in Scotland. He served on the boards of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Abbey National, and the Scottish Development Advisory Board. He was appointed KBE in 1955.

During his period as the Rector's assessor at St Andrews University, 1965-68, he worked with such diverse figures as C. P. Snow, Sir Learie Constantine and Lord Boothby.

Carmichael was a softly-spoken man, with a disarming, lopsided smile. He enjoyed family life, and every year took his family on holiday, sometimes less successfully than others. One year, he rented a caravan with which to tour Scotland. He reached as far as Speyside, not much north of St Andrews, before discovering that he had little idea how to reverse the cumbersome vehicle, let alone park it. Instead, he booked the entire family into the local hotel for the entire holiday.

Those who knew him well suspected that he may never have had any real intention of venturing further north than Speyside. With many good golf courses at hand, there seemed little reason to.

He is survived by his wife Cecilia, whom he married in 1940, and by one son and three daughters.

JOHN EDLIN

John Edlin, journalist, died in Johannesburg after a stroke on January 29 aged 50. He was born in Invercargill, New Zealand, on August 21, 1945.

TO THE despair of his editors — and to the delight of his readers — John Edlin decided early on in his 33-year-long career as a journalist in Africa that real stories could be gathered just as easily in bars and shebeens as by more orthodox means. But, despite achieving cult status as a heroic drinker and featuring as a thinly disguised hell-raising character in a number of excellent novels set in Africa, John Edlin always remained a fine reporter. From the Congolese uprising in 1966, where he tracked down the French mercenary leader Bob Denard and other notorious soldiers of fortune, Edlin chronicled with distinction the colonial and civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, the Rhodesian bush war and the collapse of old Cold War rivalries.

For more than three decades, he traversed independent Africa making friends and enemies of some of the most influential politicians; he was expelled from seven countries and jailed in at least two.

He witnessed mass starvation in Ethiopia in 1985 and once described how he had watched doctors marking the foreheads of children who could be saved. He asked Mother Teresa what could be done to help the others. "What are you going to do?" she said. Edlin considered the question over a beer or two, and in six months had provided start-up funds for an orphanage for 600 children outside Addis Ababa.

Divorced but childless, he had earlier funded the education of Moroccan orphans after a reporting assignment on the Saharan war and supported a children's home in Zimbabwe. His open-handed generosity extended to any of his colleagues who had fallen on hard times and to young reporters struggling to make their way. In Zimbabwe he was known as Chibhoyi, or "one of the boys" in the Shona language of the black journalists to whom he was mentor and friend.

John Edlin came to Southern Rhodesia from New Zealand in 1963 and went to work for a number of Rhodesian newspapers before leaving for Zambia and the Congo. Hired by the South African-owned Argus Africa News Service, he rebased himself in Ghana and travelled widely throughout West Africa, breaking many trips to retrace the steps of Graham Greene's *Journey without Maps*.

Edlin provided the novelist David Pownall with the model for a raucous young reporter from New Zealand, John Pyper, in his two novels set in Zambia, *The Raining Tree War* and *African Horse*.

Returning to southern Africa from Ghana in 1972, he worked for British newspapers and Reuters before becoming a full-time Associated Press correspondent in Rhodesia in 1976. At the time of his stroke on the dance floor of a nightclub in Dakar, Edlin had completed a year-long assignment teaching African journalists in Senegal.

He is survived by his mother and two brothers.

BRIGADIER BILL VICKERS

Brigadier Bill Vickers, DSO, OBE, died on January 28 aged 82. He was born on January 19, 1914.

THE challenge of commanding an infantry battalion other than one of one's own regiment is always formidable. The task faced by Bill Vickers, a tall, raw-boned man of rather gaunt aspect, was especially so. After 22 years of service exclusively with British troops, he was appointed to command 2nd Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), whose stocky, tough but unfailingly humorous soldiers stood only as high as his shoulder. This was in Hong Kong in January 1956 but the battalion was due to move to Malaya, where the eight-year-old communist insurrection still smouldered on.

Vickers commanded 2nd/2nd "Goorkhas", as they were invariably known, during two years of intensive operations against the residual hardcore of the communist terrorists, initially in Negeri Sembilan state in the south-west of the Malay peninsula. By that stage of the campaign, the tide had turned against the insurrection, thanks to the far-sighted policies of the successive Directors of Operations, Generals Sir Harold Briggs and Sir Gerald Templer.

During the second half of 1956, Vickers concentrated on the Kuala Pilah district, where operations by "A" company of the battalion, commanded by Major Grahame Vivian, acting on Special Branch information and intelligence from surrendered terrorists, killed or captured several of the key communist leaders in the area.

The following year saw 2nd/2nd Goorkhas operating in the neighbouring state of Johore, where a high proportion of the predominantly Chinese population persisted in their support of the terrorists still in the jungle. Accompanied by a Special Branch officer and only a small escort, Vickers trekked into the interior on four occasions to negotiate personally the surrender of terrorists. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1957 and the citation for his award of the DSO in 1958 read: "Lieutenant-Colonel Vickers has added to the renown and fighting traditions of his regiment and proved himself to be a fearless, skilled and determined leader. Inspired by his leadership, his men achieved many successes in jungle operations against a wary, treacherous and dangerous enemy."

Arthur William Neville Langston Vickers was born in London, the son of William C. L. Vickers, an electrical engineer. He was educated at Clifton, which he represented at cricket, rugby, fives and boxing, and entered the Royal Military College Sandhurst via a cadet scholarship in 1932. He was commissioned into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1934.

After prewar service in India and Burma with the 2nd KOYLI, Vickers was recalled to accompany the 1st Battalion to France in 1939. Later, as part of the 15th Infantry Brigade, the same battalion took part in the ill-fated British intervention in Norway. Virtually without air support, the brigade was landed near the Aandalsnes fiord on April 18, 1940, only to be withdrawn 12 days later in the face of the German advance northwestwards up the Gudbrand Valley from Oslo, strongly supported by the Luftwaffe.

After staff college in 1941 and appointments in England, he returned to regimental service as second-in-command of 4th Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry in time for the Normandy invasion. He was wounded and evacuated, only to return as soon as he had recovered, this time in command of the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment in the 43rd Wessex Division, which saw stiff fighting in Holland and Germany in the winter of 1944-45.

He was appointed OBE in 1945 in recognition of his war service and posted to the Staff College, Camberley, as an instructor in 1948. Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, he was appointed AA & QMG of the 1st Commonwealth Division. The years 1951-52 were the grimmest of this gruelling war, during which Vickers was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the United States Bronze Star. A brief period with 2nd KOYLI was followed by brevet promotion to lieutenant-colonel, a period on the Allied Staff in Berlin and then command of 2nd/2nd Gurkha Rifles.

Following his successful period in command, he was promoted colonel and served on the Nato staff of Allied Forces Central Europe and as an instructor at the RAF Staff College, before being appointed Inspector of Intelligence and Commandant of the Joint Services Intelligence Centre in the rank of brigadier. He retired from the Army in 1967 but remained in government service, engaged in security work, until 1970.

For eight years he served as general secretary of the Soil Association, working with E. F. Schmacher and Lady Eve Balfour. For many years during his retirement he was an active member of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, but was able to find time to play single-figure handicap golf and local cricket in and around Harleston in Norfolk, where he had made his home.

He is survived by his wife Joan, whom he married in 1939, and by their two sons and two daughters.

JAMES HOLLAND

James Holland, OBE, one of the designers of the 1951 Festival of Britain, died on January 7 aged 90. He was born in Gillingham, Kent, on September 19, 1905.

HIS students will remember James Holland as a fine teacher, his colleagues as a gifted painter, illustrator and designer, his family and friends as a man of conscience — but history will remember him for his major contribution to the 1951 Festival of Britain.

Born in Kent, James Sylvester Holland was the son of a naval blacksmith and never lost his love of the sea. After going to school at the Mathematical School, Rochester, and studying painting at the Rochester School of Art, where he returned later as a governor, he won a rare painting scholarship to the Royal College of Art in 1924. His tutor was Paul Nash and contemporaries there included Henry Moore, with whom Holland worked at one time, and the Canadian painter James Boswell. He and Boswell became lifelong friends, and together they made a number of trips to France, where Holland held his first exhibition before he graduated.

Leaving the Royal College of Art, Holland was immediately offered an art directorship with Foote Cone & Belding, working on a number of top advertising accounts such as Shell, Imperial Airways and the Empire Marketing Board. He went on to establish himself as a freelance artist and was much in demand.

With war on the horizon, Holland, together with Boswell and another artist James Fitton, set up the influential Artists International Association, a pacifist organisation of artists. During the war Holland worked at the Ministry of Information, mainly on exhibition design, and it was here that he acquired the skills that were to equip him for his job in the design group of the 1951 Festival of Britain. He joined the team in 1948 at a time of rationing and acute shortage of materials.

The Ministry of Works had looked at the South Bank site and declared it an impossible task. The design team not only took on the task but decided that each should design a section of the site. With his maritime background it was natural that Holland should choose "Sea and Ships". To his further delight, the First Lord of the Admiralty offered him the aircraft carrier *Campania* to tour Britain as a floating exhibition hall of which Holland was the designer in charge. The Festival design team met formally at least twice a week and then afterwards for informal suppers. Each member of the group had specific responsibilities but all the major decisions were the group's joint effort.

That the ambitious exhibition opened on time, was so well attended and was so much fun was in no small part due to the experience and skill of the design team, who remained as close friends at the completion of the job as when they began. When the exhibition closed Holland was appointed OBE.

He was president of the Chartered Society of Designers, 1960-61, and shortly afterwards he was appointed group art director at Erwin Wasey Advertising. In 1963 he accepted the offer to return to teaching as head of graphic design at Birmingham Polytechnic. In 1971, on his retirement from Birmingham, Holland became education officer at the Chartered Society of Designers and he used his experience to help design courses to become more professional. During this period he wrote *Minerva at Fifty*, a history of the society.

Holland is survived by his second wife Jacqueline, two daughters from his first marriage and a son and a daughter from his second.

ON THIS DAY

February 2, 1955

T. E. Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, became a legend in his lifetime, but there were always those who regarded his accounts of his career with some scepticism. Among these was the poet and novelist Richard Aldington.

LAWRENCE AND HIS LEGEND

RICHARD ALDINGTON: *Lawrence of Arabia. A Biographical Enquiry*. 448pp. Collins. 25s.

The title of the French edition of Mr Aldington's book — *Lawrence l'Imposteur* — more frankly acknowledges its character than the sub-title of the English a "biographical enquiry". He has searched the already published literature by and about Lawrence for every scrap of material that can be turned to his victim's discredit.

Lawrence is vulnerable to this kind of attack. A great popular legend was built up for him in the early 1920s, and inflated with anecdotes many of which today seem not only false but foolish. Mr Aldington adduces evidence to show that Lawrence, while publicly deprecating the growth of the legend, privately connived at it. In truth, vanity, of the kind that "backed into the limelight", was Lawrence's besetting weakness, some of his warmest admirers have acknowledged it; he himself was conscious of it, castigated himself for it, and could not escape from it. But no one who ever sat up into the small hours while Lawrence piled up tales of fantastic adventure, and noticed the look of slight disdain that came into his eyes if the listener seemed to be accepting the improbabilities too literally, will turn to the *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* for a precise record of the course of the desert campaign.

It does not follow, however, that the military value of the Arab revolt was insignificant and the credit for such success as it achieved stolen by Lawrence from other men, which is Mr Aldington's thesis. We have the testimony of Colonel Stirling, Staff Officer with the Arab forces, that: "Lawrence took the limelight from those of us professional soldiers who were fortunate enough to serve with him, but never once have I heard a whisper of jealousy. We sensed that we were serving with a man immeasurably our superior."

Mr Aldington opens with what he chooses to call "research", that Lawrence was born out of wedlock — a fact that any of Lawrence's friends, or Lawrence himself in his lifetime, would have given him for the asking.

Much play is made with the evidence that he was not offered the appointment of High Commissioner to Egypt in 1925. Attention is thus diverted from the very strong evidence (not depending upon Lawrence's word) that he was sounded about taking the same office in 1922 by Mr Winston Churchill, under whom he was then serving in the Colonial Office. Again, when Mr Aldington admits that "he was offered by a banker, and refused, a position in the City of London," is it not a little disingenuous not to mention that the banker was Montagu Norman, and the position that of Secretary of the Bank of England?

But, as has been said, Lawrence's greatness is not to be assessed by details. To Mr Aldington it is a myth fabricated by "the Lawrence Bureau". We have to consider who the Lawrence Bureau were. The Arab Revolt was, as Lawrence himself said only the sideshow of a sideshow. Yet, for its great importance to the larger campaign the witness is Allenby, the commander-in-chief; for Lawrence's unique leadership and fitness for the highest command, Wavell; for his capacity for the greatest civilian offices, Sir Winston Churchill; for his scholarship, Hogarth, Sir Leonard Woolley, and Sir Ernest Barker; for his literary skill, Wells and Sir Winston Churchill again; for his paladin quality as an adversary, Clemenceau. It is permissible to prefer the judgment of the Lawrence Bureau to Mr Aldington's.

His worst enemy does not think Lawrence a dull subject: and Mr Aldington is not usually a dull writer. But he has managed to write an uncommonly dull book.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

GERMANY Daily low cost flights. 0181 429 2900. Visa/Access. ABTA 90686. ATOL.

FLIGHTS
ALICANTE fr £59 FARO fr £59
PALMA £59 CYPRUS £99
CANARIES £59 MAHON £79
GREECE £59 MALAGA £59
MALTA £89 GOA/INDIA £289
ISRAEL £125 ORLANDO £199
All European & Worldwide Dest Available
VICEROY AIR INTERNATIONAL
01476 74111

CAPITAL FLIGHTS
Portugal 59 USA 129
Spain 59 Canada 179
Canaries 59 Caribbean 189
Ski Flights 69 Africa 299
Greece 69 Far East 320
Cyprus 89 S.America 340
Israel 99 Australia 450
ALL EUROPEAN & WORLDWIDE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
0171 209 4080

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE
ALL WORLDWIDE & EUROPEAN DEST AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT RATE
Tel: 01273 700737

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd: 0171-730 2201. ABTA 26703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

VACATION TRAVEL
PRICES FR.
FARO 59 PALMA 59
MALAGA 69 GREECE 99
ALICANTE 59 MALTA 89
TENERIFE 79 TURKEY 119
LAS PALMAS 79 ISRAEL 129
LANZAROTE 79 CYPRUS 119
All Worldwide destinations avail.
0800 371855

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

TRAILFINDERS
Low cost flights worldwide
AND UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR RENTAL
Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service
LONDON Longhaul 0171-938 3366
Transatlantic & European 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class 0171-938 3444
BIRMINGHAM Worldwide 0121-236 1234
BRISTOL Worldwide 0117-929 9000
GLASGOW Worldwide 0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER Worldwide 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class 0161-839 3434

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTRY HOUSES Association has apartments available for retired people. For information write to CHA, Freepost, London, WC2B 6BR

DESPERATE for a baby, you could help a loving couple have a much longed for baby by donating a few of your eggs. If you are a woman under 36 please call nurse Jane at the London Gynaecology & Fertility centre on 0171 224 0707 quoting ref 07926 thank you.

JAMES JOHNSTON ABRAHAM if Jill, his daughter, contacted me on 01326 231386, I would be immensely grateful.

Kidney Research Saves Lives
Please help with a donation now and a legacy later
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND
3 Archers Court, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon, PE18 6XG.
Registered Charity No 252892

HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS
Donations are urgently needed to enable us to buy more houses and rescue more families in urgent need of support. Help us face the problems of homelessness by naming Church Housing Trust as a beneficiary in your Will. Details from
CHURCH HOUSING TRUST
Sutherland House
70-78 West Hendon Broadway
London NW9 7BT

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during and since the last war and today, wherever conflict arises.
Every year approximately £15 million is spent in assisting some 20,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your Will.
Will you rise to the challenge, too?
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
DEPT.TT. 67 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AR.

Remember The Donkeys And We'll Remember You!
Over 6,700 donkeys have been taken into care many from lives tormented by cruelty and neglect. A donkey is never turned away from our Sanctuary and never put down unless there is no longer any quality of life.
We need your help to continue rescuing donkeys and to secure their future on one of our nine farms. A bequest to the donkeys will help immensely and your name will be inscribed on our Memory Wall and will be blessed at our annual St Francis Day Memorial Service.
A copy of our "Guide to Making a Will" is available on request.
The Donkey Sanctuary,
(Dept TM), Sidmouth,
Devon, EX10 0NU.
Tel: (01395) 578222
Enquiries to Dr E. D. Svendsen, MBE
Reg. Charity No. 264818

[illegible]

GOLF 36
WOOSNAM FORCED
TO PLAY A
WAITING GAME

SKIING 38
BRITISH TEAM MAKES
POIGNANT RETURN TO
SCENE OF TRAGEDY

Sri Lankan authorities stand firm

Australia may pull out of Colombo game

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

FIASCO threatened the cricket World Cup yesterday as Australia, the favourites, considered the drastic step of forfeiting their first group game to avoid visiting Colombo, the bomb-ravaged Sri Lankan capital. A decision will be taken early next week, unless the organising committee acts first to alter the venue.

Graham Halbish, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, confirmed yesterday that the possibility of forfeiture would be discussed at a scheduled board meeting next Monday and Tuesday. He added that more information from the Australian and Sri Lankan Governments was needed and repeated his earlier assurance that any player who feared for his safety could withdraw from the selected squad without penalties.

Thanks to the extraordinary format of the competition, which will probably entail only one Test-playing nation being eliminated after three weeks of group games, Australia are aware that they could sacrifice one game and still qualify for the quarter-finals with some comfort. If any other teams followed suit, Sri Lanka's progress would be virtually guaranteed before they played a game.

The Australian players' concerns, already aroused by unconnected death threats from fanatics in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, were inevitably heightened when a statement from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs warned against any non-essential travel to Sri Lanka, saying: "The possibility of attacks against airports, hotels and tourist facilities cannot be ruled out."

Ian Healy, the Australia vice-captain, said: "The bomb blast is no real surprise to me. It is why we were concerned in the first place." Michael Slater, the opening batsman, added his view that other teams may refuse to play in Sri Lanka. "I think that's the likely scenario," he said. "It's a bit scary, but we are going to be guided by the board on this one." Craig McDermott, who has recently received a death threat from Sri Lanka, said on Australian television: "Maybe it puts all games in Colombo in jeopardy, not just Australian games."

Australia had already altered their itinerary to minimise time in Colombo. They have instead scheduled a three-day training camp in Brisbane, where the climate is similar, but it is intended that they should fly to Colombo directly after the opening ceremony in Calcutta. Alarmingly, their hotel is a single block away from the site of the bomb blast.

Slater: concerned about a "scary" situation

This is just the latest setback to a competition plagued by political tension and administrative mismanagement, but it could be the most serious.

If Australia were to take the ultimate measure of withdrawing their team, which nobody one has yet ruled out, the credibility of this troubled event would be destroyed.

Although rugby teams from the New Zealand provinces of Wellington and Otago yesterday cancelled tours to Sri Lanka planned for later this month, the full sporting impact of the suicide bombing on Wednesday has yet to be felt. World Cup officials will come under increasing pressure to eliminate Sri Lanka as a venue, but their problem is finding suitable last-minute alternatives when many cities in Pakistan and India are also suffering intense unrest.

Amrit Mathur, a member of the organising committee, said yesterday: "If need be, we may have to shift the venues of the four matches allotted to Sri Lanka; but that will only be a last option and only if Sri Lanka themselves refuse to hold the matches."

This unlikely scenario became still more improbable with Zimbabwe's agreement to go ahead with their game in the city on February 21. Denis Streak, their team manager, sounded a defiant note when he said: "We don't see it as a major problem. You could get run over by a bus in the street. It's just one of those things. We've thought about it, but we come from a country which knows about war and we're not going to worry about a few bombs."

Tissa Gunaratne, a spokesman for the Sri Lankan Cricket Board, said yesterday: "No country has contacted us over this bombing incident. We are going ahead with preparations. We have not even considered calling off the matches."

Streak, and the Sri Lankan cricket authorities, must prepare themselves for others to think differently on the matter. While the International Cricket Council remains largely powerless and wordless, and while facile guarantees of tight security abound, human nature dictates that sporting teams will think twice before entering what amounts to a war zone.

There can be no assurances about safety in most parts of India and Pakistan, but Australia, at least, will be happier taking their chances there than in Sri Lanka.

It is now time that the organisers of this besieged competition acknowledged as much.

Simon Barnes, page 16

Parke hopes to recover from his chemotherapy treatment in time for the British Open in April. Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport

Brave Parke battling to beat illness

By Colin McQuillan

AT THE end of November, Simon Parke was on top of the world. He was the main attraction at a special press conference at Lambs Club in London. On one hand was England's first world team squash trophy: on the other, Caroline Varley, his new girlfriend.

Four weeks later, he was facing quite another examination, in the oncology department of the Nottingham City Hospital, where he learnt that a tumour in his right testicle, a teratoma, was a malignant form of cancer that required immediate surgery and a course of chemotherapy.

At 23, Parke is a former world junior champion and, for many experts, the best technical performer produced by English squash. He had reached the top of the national rankings and become the first string of the exciting young England squad that had snatched the world team title from Pakistan in Cairo.

"I was very shocked," he said yesterday. "I first noticed a swelling to my right testicle in December, but forgot to take the prescribed antibiotics while in Bombay playing the Mahindra Challenge.

"By Christmas, it was obvious something serious was going on, so I went back to the doctor on Boxing Day, saw an urologist and was in for surgery on January 2. I thought they could just whip it out and that would be the end of it.

"I told everyone I had appendicitis and would be back in action after missing the national championships."

In fact, there is a month of chemotherapy to deal with the possibility of secondary malignancy. "A sort of insurance," Parke said. "Although even that was a shock. I thought at first I would be having radiotherapy which seemed less dire."

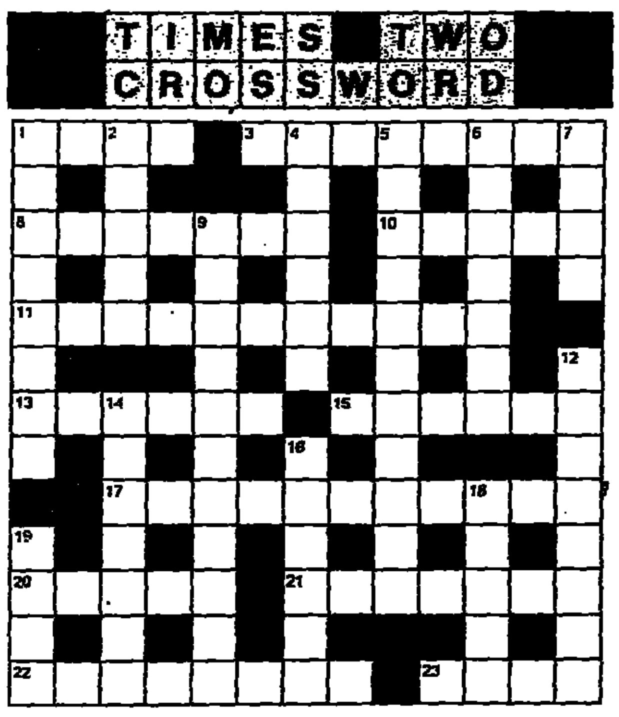
Parke is confident that he caught things early, took the right course of action and should be back in action in time for the British Open in April. His first 48-hour chemotherapy course finished late on Wednesday. "I feel as sick as a dog and I can't stop hiccoughing," he said. "I have a short course next week, just half an hour, then another 48-hour job the week after and another short one on February 22." In theory, he could stay in training throughout.

"I have been sitting in hospital with a lot of quite old people, some of whom might not come out," he said, "but I know there is a 95 per cent clear-up rate on testicular cancer, which quite a lot of young men get. We are the lucky ones really. There are some side effects of the treatment, but losing a bit of hair seems unimportant. I might come back and start a trend in headscarves.

"I think this will change my life, get things into perspective a bit. It has been quite a learning period."

His rankings should not be much affected if he gets back into action as he anticipates, but Parke will certainly miss the finals of the Hi-Tec PSA Super Series in Hatfield next month. It seems likely that Mark Cairns, of Oxford, will move into his place among the top eight players of the year's grand prix action.

"That is almost the most irritating thing," Parke said. "I have qualified for those play-offs three years running now. The last two play-offs were held over for lack of sponsorship. Now they get it on and I am too ill to play."



No 694

ACROSS

1 Give up (4)
3 Without penalty (4-4)
8 Pasta stuffed with meat (7)
10 Ship's petty officer (5)
11 Gardener's hut (7,4)
13 Of the universe (6)
15 French physicist; unit of current (6)
17 Pope's office: hold forth (11)
20 Ward off (5)
21 Part of line, insect body (7)
22 Decisive confrontation (8)
23 Long (family) story (4)

DOWN

1 Tortoise, crab shell (8)
2 Lifeboat crane (5)
4 Shrink in embarrassment (6)
5 Ranting (speaker) (3-8)
6 Little bit left (7)
7 Sicilian volcano (4)
9 Dogmatic (11)
12 Loss of one's marbles (8)
14 An overlord (7)
16 Puzzle for assembly (6)
18 Show-ring (5)
19 The Red Planet (4)

The solution to 693 will be published Wednesday, February 7

WE ARE NOW OFFERING READERS OF THE TIMES FREE DELIVERY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT STANDARD RETAIL PRICE — OFFER EXTENDED TO INCLUDE EUROPE — REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM — STERLING OR US $ CHEQUES ONLY — (£1 - $US 1.50).
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — diskettes contain circa 60 crosswords per title (with HELP levels): For IBM PCs and Acorn RISC OS (Archimedes) range. NOW ONLY £9.99 each. The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 — The Times Concise 3, 4, 5, 6 — The Times Two 1, 2, 3 — The Times Jubilee Edition — The Times Crosswords 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 - The Sunday Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 — The Sunday Times Concise 1, 2, 3, 4 — The Sunday Times Mephisto — The Sunday Times 10, 11, 12, 13. Also: The Times Omnibus Edition (two diskettes — 120 Times Crosswords) £19.99.
THE TIMES MAPS (folded): JUST £4.99 EACH — The World, Ireland, British Isles, Canada.
Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Delivery up to eight days (UK). Tel: 0181-852 4575 (24hrs). No credit cards.

Stanislaus banned for one year

By Alyson Rudd

ROGER STANISLAUS, the Leyton Orient defender, yesterday became the first English football player to be suspended from the game for drug abuse. The Football Association punished the former Arsenal, Brentford and Bury player for taking cocaine. The ban takes immediate effect for one year. Leyton Orient will decide at an emergency board meeting on Tuesday whether Stanislaus has any future at the club.

Medical evidence presented to the FA is consistent with Stanislaus, 27, having taken cocaine either just before kick-off, or even at half-time, on the day of the random drugs test at Barnet in November. Although a two- or three-year suspension had been anticipated, the one-year ban could still spell ruin for Stanislaus's professional career — particularly if Orient do not stand by him. Barry Hearn, the Orient chairman, has made his views on drug abuse clear and has been keen to promote Orient as part of the east London community, including giving lectures for children on drug abuse. Stanislaus could atone by forming part of that education programme, but Hearn commented: "I think that would be up to the player and the FA to work out and depending on his future at Leyton Orient."

Traces of cocaine were found in samples provided by Stanislaus after Orient's 3-0 defeat at Underhill on November 25. Stanislaus told the FA disciplinary commission that he smoked a banned substance at a family funeral on the Thursday evening before the match. If that were true, then the player would not have lived to face the commission, according to Dr David Cowan, the director of the Drugs Control Centre at King's College, London, who said that Stanislaus would have had to have taken a lethal dose of at least one kilogram of cocaine given the levels of the drug in the sample taken at 6.40pm on the day of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division match.

With medical evidence conclusively proving that Stanislaus took the drug in an attempt to enhance his performance, a one-year ban will be considered relatively lenient. The FA defended its decision on grounds that Stanislaus was not a habitual drugs user.

Stanislaus was not ordered to undergo a drugs rehabilitation scheme, which was the fate of Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham Hotspur forward, when random testing detected that he had used cannabis.

Ferguson wins appeal 3
Asprilla stumbling block 37
Freud on Friday 37

Carling sets Twickenham priority

By David Hands
rugby correspondent

FOR all the talk of expansive rugby that has emanated from England and Wales this season, the primary objective for both teams will be to win when they meet at Twickenham tomorrow in the second round of the five nations' championship. Style, particularly for these developing teams, will be secondary.

If that seems at odds with the sentiments issuing, in particular, from Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, it is not. "You don't develop as a side by losing," Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, said. "If our best method of winning was to play catch and drive all the time, we would probably revert to it, but we haven't got that armoury.

"Our best style is to move ball about because that's the only way we can compete with the world's best. We have tried the slamming game up front, which doesn't work for us, so hopefully we can bring some fresh air to the championship."

Humphreys believes that, after defeat by France, the pressure will be on England, but that will only be true if England go into the match uncertain of how they intend to play. According to Will Carling, their captain, they are on an upward curve.

"Along the way, we would like to score tries, that's the aim in a rugby game," he said. "I love running rugby, that's what I want to play, but more than anything, I want to win.

"You get a sense of adventure through confidence, through a stable side, from the bond that develops among players. You can't just throw that together. This is a growing side, people are keen to have an input and always have been. Wales will be confident in their ability so we will be wary of them and treat them with respect."

While England's players trained in private yesterday, one of their team-mates appeared to be close to recuperation. Tony Underwood, whose last appearance was against New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final, may take some part in Newcastle's game with West Hartlepool at Brierton Lane on Sunday.

Jack Rowell, the England manager, made a visit to Newcastle last week to assess Underwood's fitness in a season that has left him short of competition on the wings. Underwood moved from Leicester to Newcastle while recovering from a knee operation and Rob Andrew, the director of rugby at Kingston Park, hinted that he may participate in the game on Sunday alongside Andrew himself, Nick Popplewell, Dean Ryan and Peter Walton.

Ireland, who sit this weekend out, will take a close interest in the form of David Humphreys when he plays at stand-off half for Ulster against New South Wales on Tuesday.

The Oxford University student is challenging for a first cap against France on February 17, ahead of Eric Elwood, the incumbent, and Paul Burke.

Wales' new breed, page 34
Gerald Davies, page 34

MORSE

HA!
HA!
HA!

High Availability features (like automatic restart and hot swap disks) give Hewlett-Packard's new D-Class UNIX servers mission critical reliability.

At an entry level price.

Call Vicky on 0181-232 8000 for our one page executive summary.

HEWLETT PACKARD
Corporate Reseller

MorseData
0181-232 8000 Fax 0181-232 8200

Kremlin offer fails to halt showdown that could prove damaging for embattled President

Half a million Russian miners strike over pay

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

HALF a million miners chose President Yeltsin's 65th birthday to go on a nationwide strike yesterday in an echo of the industrial action that helped to bring down Mikhail Gorbachev.

The strike went ahead despite last-minute attempts by the Government to dampen down what could turn into a political challenge to Mr Yeltsin ahead of the presidential elections in June. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, promised the miners 600 billion roubles (£84 million) on Tuesday. But most of the outstanding debts to the coal industry are from private companies, not the Government and cannot be paid back immediately.

Even conservative figures from the state-run coal company Rosugol put the number of strikers yesterday at more than 300,000 in 118 pits. The miners are demanding wages, which in some cases have not been paid since last October. Miners are better paid than most Russian workers but have to endure appalling living conditions and the health hazards of poorly maintained mines.

In the northern city of Vorkuta 7,000 miners marched through the streets carrying banners saying "Down with hungry reforms!" and "It's there for the war but not our salaries" and calling on the Government to resign. Yuri Vishnevsky, a union leader, said that he had not yet had any serious proposals from the Government and that he did not think the strike would end soon. At a noisy demonstration outside the Government headquarters in the middle of Moscow this week miners broke their hard hats on the ground in symbolic protest. They said they had no money left to feed their families.

Yeltsin: pledged to pay overdue salaries

A miners' strike in Ukraine, called simultaneously, brought out 600,000 workers, union leaders said. A group of disabled miners gathered in central Kiev to demand special privileges.

The heart of the Russian strike is the West Siberian region of Kuzbass, Russia's biggest mining belt. In 1989 and in the spring of 1991 the Kuzbass came out on strike against Mr Gorbachev and helped Mr Yeltsin to win the presidential elections a few months later. Now political allegiances have switched and 53 per cent of the population voted for the Communist Party in last December's parliamentary election.

It is too early to tell what the economic effects of the strike will be. Some pits have said they will strike for 48 hours, others that they are going on indefinite strike. According to Aleksandr Yevtushenko, the Russian First Deputy Energy Minister, some remote areas of Siberia and the Far East could be left without power in a couple of days if the strike goes on. The steel industry, which is almost completely reliant on coal, will also suffer.

At the heart of the problem is a vicious circle of unpaid debt between the Government and industry. Many large state companies have not paid the taxes they owe to the Finance Ministry, which in turn says that its coffers are empty. Factories, for their part, say they cannot pay taxes because they are owed money by their customers.

President Yeltsin has signed a series of decrees this week to pay overdue salaries, but has not indicated how the budget, which sets strict inflationary guidelines, will pay for them.

In addition to the miners, teachers have staged a three-day strike in 51 Russian regions of Russia this week, again complaining of unpaid wages. Air traffic controllers met in Moscow yesterday and voted to postpone a threatened strike until the end of the month.

If the situation does not ease soon, it will be a perfect propaganda weapon for the Communist Party against Mr Yeltsin in the presidential election in June.

Life eked out above and below ground

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

THE miners are probably the only section of the Russian proletariat with any chance of launching a real mass protest movement.

"We don't trust the Government, the party or our own leaders, for that matter," a miner once told me, "but we trust each other. Down the mine, you have to trust each other, or you're dead."

Accidents and respiratory diseases are appallingly common and apparently getting worse. It is not unusual for miners to have to crawl to the coalface on hands and knees through pools of sludge and icy water. The condition of supporting beams and rescue equipment has horrified Western experts.

What really infuriates the miners, however, is that for the past few years they have received their monthly pay several days later each month, so they are now three or four months behind.

The mining companies say that they have often not been paid for coal supplied. State power stations and railways are the worst offenders. The miners suspect, however, that in many cases managers have diverted the money into private trading companies to make a quick profit.

The miners' conditions are not quite as bad as the official statistics might suggest. Despite its large and decaying towns, the Kuzbass region is in some ways less urbanised than the mining areas of Western Europe and many miners are not too far from their parents' or grandparents' peasant roots. Many live in cottages on their own allotments, where their wives grow vegetables and keep a few animals.

Although the climate of the Kuzbass, unlike Ukraine's Donbass, is hardly suitable for fruit, the miners do manage to grow some. There is also hunting in Siberia's forests — a bit like Robert De Niro and his working-class friends in *The Deerhunter*.

Up to now, these ameliorations, and the lack of a clearcut cause, ideology or leader, have helped to prevent the miners' discontent from growing into serious unrest.

Viktor Chernomyrdin and Al Gore are served with a hot dog and a sandwich in New York. The Russian later tackled a pastrami sandwich as well

'Pastrami summit' leaves New York diners in awe

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S Vice-President, Al Gore, has found a new form of political dialogue: "deli diplomacy". Mr Gore took Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, to lunch at the quintessential New York delicatessen.

In what has been dubbed "the pastrami summit", the two politicians joined the lunch-time crowd at Katz's, a Jewish deli on Manhattan's lower East Side which, since 1888, has been known for its sardonic staff and big helpings.

Things began uncertainly when Mr Chernomyrdin, awed by the bountiful array of pickles, handcut meats and Dr Brown's celery soda, said that he would merely take a hot dog. "A hot dog?" stalled counter "boy" David Tarowsky, 83, who has worked at Katz's for 53 years and has "seen 'em all".

Mr Chernomyrdin, aware of his gaffe, recovered quickly by ordering one of Katz's celebrated, four-inch-thick pastrami sandwiches. He created a minor sensation by taking it in addition to the hot dog.

Mr Gore, who likes to watch his weight, made only a meek attempt at his pastrami and corned beef on rye with mustard. As the order was shouted down the counter by Mr Tarowsky, Katz's regulars nodded grudging respect, but the Vice-President managed only three bites before summoning a doggy bag. Meanwhile, Mr Chernomyrdin went to work on his lunch and showed himself to be a trencherman. He demolished the hot dog, wiped his brow, and then made creditable headway with the pastrami mountain.

There was little opportunity for diplomatic chat as the two men sat at a ordinary table complete with ketchup bottle, napkin dispenser and sugar funnel. A determined Mr Chernomyrdin, chewing ever more slowly, came up only for air and the occasional draught of Diet Pepsi. After 20 minutes he, too, had to call for a doggy bag, but not before his hand had been shaken in admiration by numerous fellow diners.

Fred Austin, co-owner of Katz's, had earlier said that the Vice-President and his guest would be treated "rudely — like we treat everybody else. It's part of the New York ethos." As they left, however, the deli's manager, Robert Albinder, conceded: "The Russian guy never stood a chance, but he did well."

Mr Gore left no tip, leading to unfair remarks that "there is clearly only one Tipper in the family" — Mrs Gore's name being Tipper. However, Mr Albinder said that tips were not obligatory for counter-served customers.

Yeltsin's foe vows to revive Soviet might

Zyuganov: has attacked "neo-liberal" regimes

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE man Washington most fears will depose President Yeltsin in June was peddling a distinctly threatening world view in the pages of a leading American newspaper yesterday.

Writing in *The New York Times*, Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Russian Communist Party which showed such strong gains in national elections last December, lambasted the "neo-liberal" regimes of Mr Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev, denigrated perestroika and branded Moscow's attempts at economic reform a disaster.

Offering a blueprint of Russian-American relations post-Yeltsin, Mr Zyuganov said the Communists viewed as dangerous the lack of military and strategic parity between the two countries after the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

"We would restore the might of the Russian state and its status in the world. That would make its policies incomparably more predictable and responsible than they are today," Mr Zyuganov wrote.

"And we see the restoration of the union of the former Soviet peoples — based on voluntary association — as a historical necessity dictated by Russia's needs and those of world security."

Foreign policy would be limited to maintaining state security. Nato expansion and the deployment of alliance troops in the former Yugoslavia were, he said, examples of how such institutions claimed the right to interfere in other people's affairs.

"Several years have passed since the Cold War ended, but relations between our countries are far from harmonious," he said. "Though it must renounce useless and excessive military spending, Russia never was — or could be — a 'junior partner'. Any policy that counts on Russia's remaining in its humiliating position, following in the American wake, is doomed to defeat."

Iranian banker disappears 'with £9m'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

IRAN'S most trusted banker in Paris has disappeared, allegedly taking with him Fr70 million (£9 million) belonging to the Tehran Government.

A Marxist-Leninist group opposed to the Iranian Government claims that Hedayat Ashtari Larki, the director of the Paris branch of Bank Sepah, Iran's oldest bank, has joined its ranks.

Tehran insists that he is merely a thief and a Paris magistrate is examining the case. Agents of the Iranian secret service are reportedly hunting the missing man while their counterparts in Britain and France would also like to find the elusive banker.

For seven years Mr Ashtari handled sensitive economic transactions between France and Iran, but over the past year relations between the banker and his political bosses in Tehran had begun to sour. In December, Mr Ashtari suddenly moved out of his Paris flat, along with his wife and children. He has not been located since — nor, according to Tehran, has millions of francs from accounts held by Bank Sepah.

Mr Ashtari's motives, however, may be political. The dissident Organisation of Iranian People's Fadaii Guerrillas, one of the exiled groups opposed to the Tehran regime, has since claimed that the missing banker is a committed member of the group.

The first sign that the banker was no longer getting on well with his superiors came when he allegedly refused to send a $6 million (£4 million) commission claimed by some of his bosses for negotiating the sale of three Airbus planes to the company, Safiran.

Mr Ashtari later protested when the Tehran Government seized $1.45 million from the bank account of a company it believed to be linked to the opposition group. The banker is also believed to have played the money markets through a specialist Bureau de Change in Paris.

He was ordered to return to Tehran late last year. He did not do so, and on November 23 his flat in Paris was broken into and his wife was attacked, according to a report in *L'Express* magazine. A few days later Mr Ashtari and his family went into hiding.

The dissident group has warned the Iranian secret service that if anything happens to Mr Ashtari "the response will be severe". The group claimed that the banker had found it "more and more difficult to accept the anti-popular actions of the Iranian regime and kept his distance from them. The regime tried to get Mr Ashtari back to Iran at all costs."

As the banker in charge of some of Iran's most delicate economic operations, Mr Ashtari is believed to have been privy to information the Tehran regime would rather not have disclosed. "As soon as Mr Ashtari is safe, he will explain these scandals in detail," the dissident group's statement said.

Tehran missile test fuels Gulf fears

FROM REUTER IN DUBAI

IRAN has restored its capability to fire anti-ship missiles at sea, raising fears in the Gulf about Tehran's growing ability to control the world's largest oil-exporting shipping lane, analysts said yesterday.

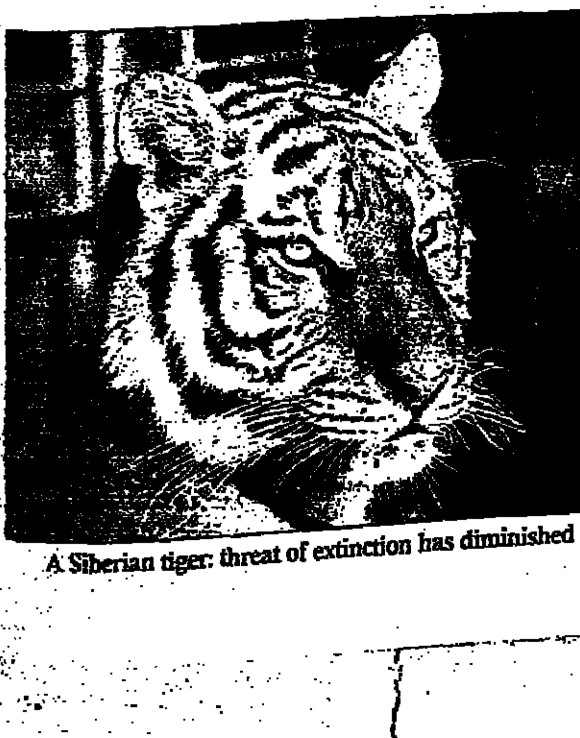
American forces patrolling the Gulf this week said that Iran test-fired a Chinese anti-ship missile on January 6 from a vessel in the Arabian Sea just outside the Gulf.

"Iran now has an anti-ship capability at sea. This is the first such capability Iran has had at sea since 1988 [when Iranian vessels were attacked by American forces in the Gulf]," a Western officer said.

Military sources could not say how many of the radar-guided missiles Iran had, but they said they could be mounted on patrol boats, allowing them to be moved freely in the waterway. The missiles have a range of 60 miles.

American forces clashed several times with Iranian units during the Iran-Iraq War when both sides attacked Gulf shipping.

Wildlife brigade stalks tiger poachers in Siberia



A Siberian tiger: threat of extinction has diminished

BY LEYLA LINTON

TIGER poachers in Siberia, who often work in league with the Russian mafia, are being beaten by wildlife patrols.

Experts feared the extinction of the Siberian tiger within four years as poachers had reduced a growing population of 400 tigers in 1989 to just 150 by the beginning of 1994. But poaching of the animal has fallen by 75 per cent in the past 18 months after the introduction of special patrols, according to the Investigative Network, a wildlife conservation charity.

Operation Amba, an anti-poaching brigade launched by the Russian Ministry of the Environment two years ago and funded by environmental groups worldwide, has helped to reduce tiger poaching from an estimated 60 a year to between ten and 15, a report by the network says.

The brigade consists of four mobile anti-poaching teams in the Primorsky region, which is home to 85 per cent of the Siberian tiger population. Each team, of about five people, is equipped with at least one military-style truck and radios. The operation costs about £100,000 a year.

Sue Fisher, one of the authors of the report, hopes the anti-poaching teams will be consolidated with the creation of an international Siberian tiger sanctuary in Russia. She said: "If the proposed sanctuary is financed, it will provide a secure eco-system for a whole host of other threatened wildlife."

The Siberian tiger is the largest of the species, and its street value can be as high as £40,000 for skins and bone, which is ground down for a medicine or aphrodisiac.

The tigers are sometimes capable of defending themselves. Interfax reported this week that two tigers had killed a hunter, the third such victim in a month.

Admiral of Black Sea Fleet is sacked

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has dismissed Admiral Eduard Baltin, the commander of the troubled Black Sea Fleet, Tass reported yesterday.

Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, ordered Admiral Baltin to transfer his command to Vice-Admiral Gennadi Suchkov, who will assume the post as head of the fleet temporarily, the news agency said.

Admiral Baltin had long opposed the division of the fleet between Russia and Ukraine and his uncompromising stance was increasingly viewed in Moscow as an obstacle in improving relations between the two countries.

Problems arose over the jurisdiction of the fleet after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The fleet is based in Sevastopol, a port on the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea which is located in Ukraine.

Both Russia and Ukraine, eager to build up its armed forces as a newly independent state, claimed control of the fleet and it took several years of tough negotiations to reach agreement on its division. There had also been sporadic clashes between vessels in the fleet crewed by Russians and Ukrainians.

Complete agreement has still to be achieved on the final breakdown of all naval hardware as well as the terms under which Russia will be able to operate the naval bases in Ukraine.

FINAL EXECUTION OF DRASTIC DISPOSAL ORDER
SHORT NOTICE OF A VERY IMPORTANT
UNRESERVED DISPOSAL AUCTION
of 73 Bales - Bill of Lading No 096-8896-8156

Now have been cleared from HM Customs and Excise bond VAT and duties paid together with a carefully assembled consignment of exceptionally fine and medium quality hand-made valuable

Persian, Islamic & Oriental Carpets, Rugs, Runners & Kilims

By order of trustees, acting for and on behalf of Chamber of Commerce of Persia in conjunction with collection order and remitting fund to the Central Pledge Bank of Iran having met the guaranteed bill of payment by an Independent Financial institute. Benefited from extreme devaluation of Persian money against the major baskets of currencies final decision has been taken to lift the reserve and reduce prices drastically to ensure complete disposal.

ON

VENUE 1 - Saturday 3 Feb 96 at 11.30am
(View from 10.30am) at
FORTE POST HOUSE HOTEL, South Mimms,
(Roundabout Junc.23 of M25), Nr St Albans, Hertfordshire.

VENUE 2 - Sunday 4 Feb 96 at 11.00am
(View from 10.00am) at
RED LION HOTEL, Hart Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Nr Maidenhead,
(Border of Oxfordshire & Berkshire)

VENUE 3 - Sunday 4 Feb 96 at 5.00pm
(View from 4.00pm) at
THE MONTCALM HOTEL
34 Great Cumberland Place,
Marble Arch, London W1.

Inventory includes old antique and contemporary Persian and eastern hand knotted pile and flat weave rugs in wool and silk of outstanding merit and quality.

M Shokri & Associates Ltd. Tel 0181 202 1513

مكنا من الاحصاء

Critics of £440m aid for ailing airline say decision flies in face of fair competition

Britain considers legal challenge to Iberia handout

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

THE British Government may mount a legal challenge to the European Commission's decision to let Iberia, Spain's national airline, receive another £440 million in state aid.

Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, told the Commons yesterday that the Government had not ruled out such a challenge. "This seems to us at best a weak decision which threatens to undermine all our efforts to establish fair competition in the Community aviation market," he said.

Tory MPs, who expressed their anger at the handout yesterday, claim that Iberia is a state monolith, still in the grip of powerful unions, nepotistic, protected, inefficient and uncaring of the needs of its passengers. Spain's state-owned giant has, they say, failed to come to terms with the new Europe, it is bureaucratic and cosseted by a chauvinistic Government anxious only to "fly the flag".

Iberia, they claim, not only pays many of its staff — especially its pilots — ridiculously high salaries, but distorts competition by cutting fares to unrealistic levels, safe in the knowledge that if they lose money the Government will bail them out.

Many pilots joke that nepotism is so engrained on the airline that the flight deck of an Iberian jet is the closest thing to heaven because the son is always sitting at the right hand of the father.

Other critics say that, having been given European Commission approval in 1992 for £600 million of state money, the lumbering airline has formally been given the go-ahead to receive another £450 million and an understanding that they will get another £100 million from the Spanish Government next year.

However, Iberia considers much of the criticism from the likes of British Airways and British Midland to be based on a misunderstanding of the Spanish tradition that senior staff ensure that their children and other relatives are in line for a job when one arises.

Iberia says that because Spain is on the periphery of Europe, it cannot compete with the dominant northern airlines such as BA. It does not have a global network of routes and often has to fly on unprofitable ones.

The airline is also smarting under the domination of the holiday market by British and German charter operators which are, with typical Spanish hospitality, welcomed with open arms.

The money Iberia has received is not state aid, the airline argues, but has been raised by Teneo, the quasi-governmental holding organisation that has sold other state-owned enterprises and is using the proceeds to keep Iberia alive until its restructuring plan can take effect.

The planned changes are tough and will mean that many of the airline's own investments will have to be disposed of. At least 8,500 staff will have been laid off between 1991 and 1999; a pay freeze is in force; almost 20 aircraft are going to be sold; and tight new productivity targets will have to be met while the Commission keeps a careful watch on how the extra money is spent.

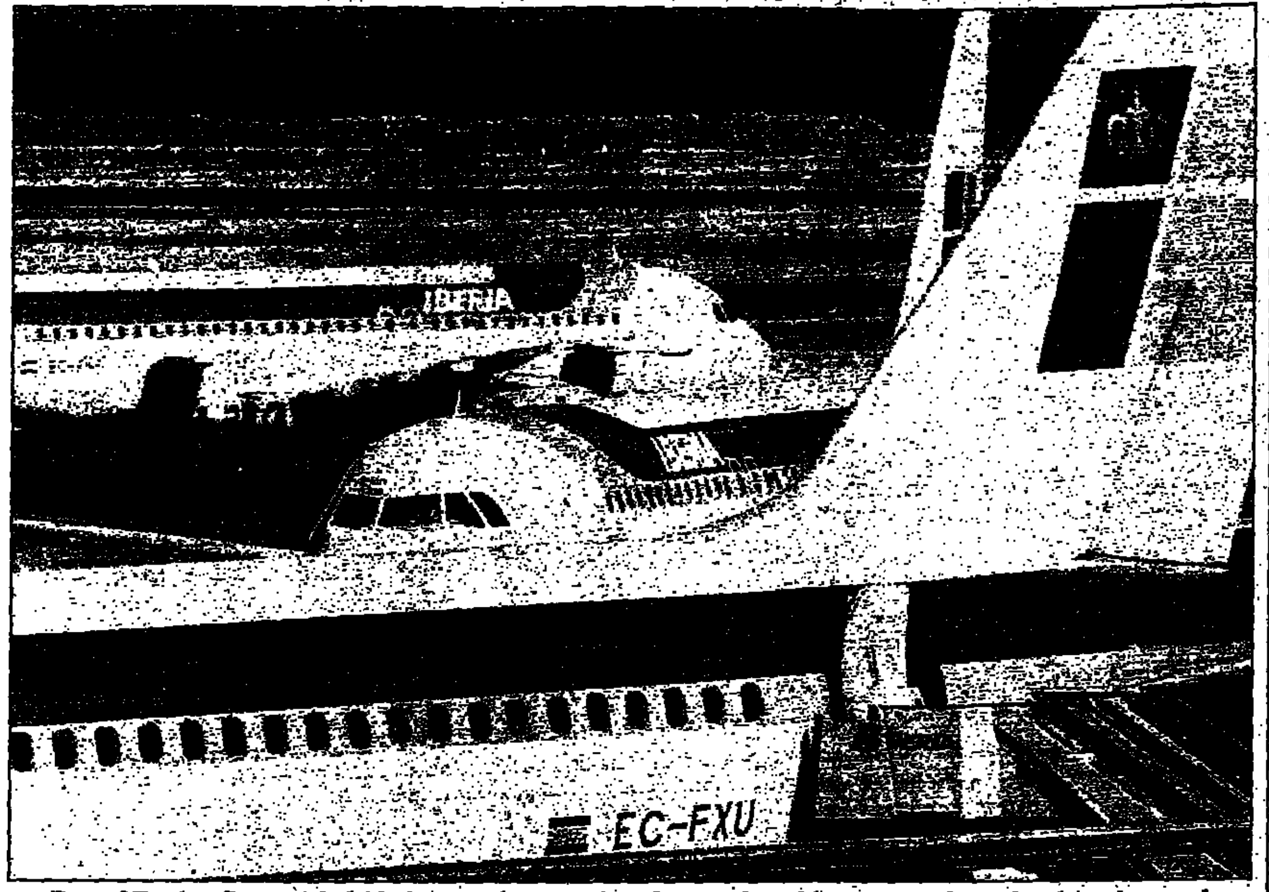
It was an argument which swayed Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner. Britain's airlines are waiting until a transcript of the Commission's decision is available before deciding whether to take their case to the European Court as they did with Air France. But with other state-owned airlines lining up to follow Iberia's path to Mr Kinnock's door, the British are determined to prevent any further handouts.

Swissair is the only other large European scheduled carrier which is wholly privately owned. Lufthansa is rapidly shedding its state holding and becoming more aggressive in its marketing. Olympic, Aer Lingus, Air France and TAP Portugal are, like Iberia, 100 per cent state-owned. Alitalia has an 86.4 per cent state holding, Sabena 62 per cent; Finnair 61 per cent; Austrian 52 per cent; SAS 50 per cent; and KLM 38 per cent.

Since 1991 six European airlines have received capital injections through their governments of more than £7 billion, which private airlines could not have raised. Where, British companies are asking, is the promised "level playing field" in European aviation?

HOW BA BEATS IBERIA

	BRITISH AIRWAYS	IBERIA
Shareholders	241,454	one
Turnover	£7 billion	£2.3 billion
Debt	£3.7 billion	£1.2 billion
Operating profit	£681 million	£32 million
Pre-tax profit	£327 million	£269 million loss
Aircraft	283	97
Passengers	30.5 million	13 million
Average loads	71.6 per cent	68.8 per cent
Destinations	169	73
Flights per day	1,000	450
Employees	53,000	23,576



Part of Iberia's fleet at Madrid airport. About 20 aircraft are to be sold and a pay freeze has been imposed

Leading article, page 17

National interests prevail in Brussels battles for state subsidies

*Coming after previous cases involving the prestige of national bodies, the handout has dented the Commission's credibility, **Charles Bremner** writes*

BRUSSELS yesterday shrugged off the row over the EU Commission's decision to allow the Spanish state to shovel £440 million into Iberia. Officials acknowledged, however, that, coming on top of a string of similar cases, the Iberia rescue has dented the Commission's credibility.

"We got a pretty good deal considering the pressures involved," said an official close to the bargaining that resulted in the Commission approving the second big funding for Iberia in four years, despite its policy that loss-makers can only get one lot of state aid.

Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner who is responsible for the airline industry, was taking comfort from the argument that his team had squeezed down Iberia's initial demand for a sum some 60 per cent higher and imposed stringent terms for restructuring which have not gone down well in Spain. They also emphasised their finding that the case did not involve direct state aid but a commercial investment by a state-controlled holding company. The argument has set industry experts chortling.

Mr Kinnock's uneasy performance when he explained the deal on Tuesday suggested a man whose free-market principles, proclaimed with fervour when he arrived in Brussels a year ago, had come off the worse from 12 months in office. A similar weathering has afflicted Karel van Miert, the Flemish Socialist who polices state aid in industries apart from transport.

So much national interest is at stake in such decisions that political considerations prevail. As one official said: "There was just no way that Brussels was going to put to death a national flag-carrier, however lame it looks."

Such realism helped to swing Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior commissioner and former competition chief, behind the Iberia decision, which was taken unanimously by the 20 commissioners. Some officials dismissed the British criticism as a reflection of the "Europhobia" in the Conservative Government. "They would have been screaming in the other direction if the Commission had scuppered some cherished British institution," one said.

Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, had campaigned during his presidency of the EU in the past six months to ensure that two big state rescues went through. These were Iberia and £236 million of aid to Seat, Volkswagen's loss-making Spanish subsidiary. Two years ago, the might of the French state was brought to bear to win approval for £2.4 billion for Air France, £5.5 billion for Crédit Lyonnais and £1.3 billion for Groupe Bull, the nationalised computer firm. Other airlines queuing up successfully at the till were Greece's Olympic, Air Portugal and Aer Lingus.

Britain, officials note, has lobbied for itself in two recent subsidy cases. Mr Van Miert's department is on the verge of approving most of an £80 million package in which British taxpayers will help to finance a new Jaguar plant at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham. Without the money, Ford, Jaguar's American parent, said it would switch production to America. Delays in the approval were ascribed by some in Whitehall to annoyance in Brussels over the Government's obstruction in other EU decisions. In the other case, Brussels last year backed a British grant of £61 million, contested by EU clothing companies, to a Northern Ireland textiles plant.

Officials say the Commission's decisions have been influenced by a climate in which the fear of unemployment has become the paramount force on the Continent.

Spain to champion teaching of English

From Edward Owen in Madrid

SPAIN has launched one of the most advanced language programmes in Europe for state schools. Within three years, most pupils at state infant schools will start to learn English from the age of three and will continue until leaving secondary school, studying a syllabus provided by the British Council, with exam results recognised in Britain.

The breakthrough by the council has been achieved despite an increase of competition in language teaching and severe cuts in its budget which will lead to the loss of resources and staff.

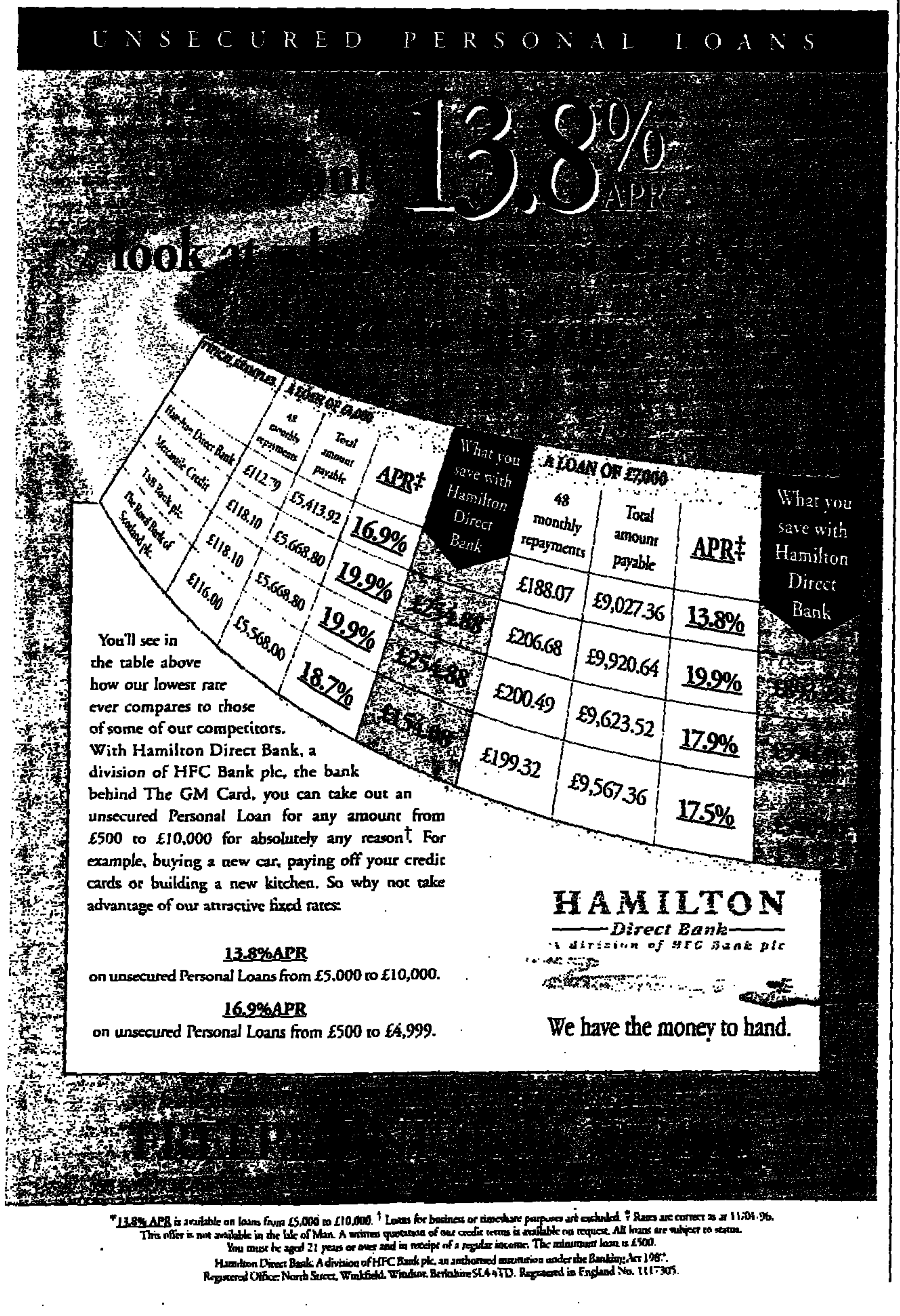
David Brighty, the British Ambassador in Madrid, and Jerónimo Saavedra, the Minister of Education and Science, signed an agreement for the British Council to oversee the syllabus, provide materials and recruit English teachers for 43 state schools in Spain with a total of 10,000 pupils.

Señor Saavedra said 900 Spanish state schools would introduce the council's English-teaching programme, starting with the country's youngest pupils, from September. His ministry is spending about £500,000 on the pilot scheme, which will primarily benefit children in poor city suburbs whose parents cannot afford the private English lessons that many rich Spanish children take. Many later go to British, Irish or American universities.

"The earlier the start in bilingual education, the better," said Ray Holliday, the headmaster of the British Council school in Madrid. Ministers in the Socialist Government have had no qualms about sending their children to the school, which has 1,776 pupils and fees of about £5,000 a year.

However, cuts of £22 million in the council's international budget mean that at least ten administrators in Madrid will be lost.

"We still teach English to about 17,000 Spaniards around Spain," said Peter Taylor, regional director-general of the council, "but we have been hit by improved teaching of English in schools and more competition."



UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

13.8% APR

TYPICAL EXAMPLES	A LOAN OF £4,000 48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable	APR‡	What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank	A LOAN OF £7,000 48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable	APR‡	What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank
Hamilton Direct Bank	£112.79	£5,413.92	16.9%		£188.07	£9,027.36	13.8%	
Mercantile Credit	£118.10	£5,668.80	19.9%	£254.88	£206.68	£9,920.64	19.9%	[illegible]
TSB Bank plc	£118.10	£5,668.80	19.9%	£254.88	£200.49	£9,623.52	17.9%	[illegible]
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	£116.00	£5,568.00	18.7%	£154.88	£199.32	£9,567.36	17.5%	[illegible]

You'll see in the table above how our lowest rate ever compares to those of some of our competitors. With Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, the bank behind The GM Card, you can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any amount from £500 to £10,000 for absolutely any reason†. For example, buying a new car, paying off your credit cards or building a new kitchen. So why not take advantage of our attractive fixed rates:

13.8%APR
on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 to £10,000.

16.9%APR
on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £4,999.

HAMILTON
Direct Bank
A division of HFC Bank plc

We have the money to hand.

*13.8% APR is available on loans from £5,000 to £10,000. † Loans for business or timeshare purposes are excluded. ‡ Rates are correct as at 11/01/96. This offer is not available in the Isle of Man. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 21 years or over and in receipt of a regular income. The minimum loan is £500. Hamilton Direct Bank: A division of HFC Bank plc, an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987. Registered Office: North Street, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 4TD. Registered in England No. 1117305.

Italy gets new Prime Minister

From Richard Owen in Rome

PRESIDENT SCALFARO yesterday ended weeks of political uncertainty by nominating Antonio Maccanico, a highly respected bureaucrat and constitutional expert, to head a broad-based Government of National Unity in Italy.

The lira rose immediately, and Signor Maccanico said he hoped his economic programme would enable the lira to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism.

If Signor Maccanico succeeds in forming a government the move will avoid disruptive elections during Italy's presidency of the European Union which lasts until June. It will also provide Italy with a breathing space during which the stalled constitutional reforms begun three years ago can be carried through.

Sources close to the coalition talks reported last night that the Maccanico reform programme included proposals for a "French style" direct election of the Italian President. At present the head of state is elected by parliament and is largely a figurehead, although he plays a key role in coalition negotiations.

Any such change to the constitution would need a two-thirds majority in parliament. The details of the proposal have yet to be made clear. Many Italians have reservations about investing too much power in one person, a legacy of the Mussolini dictatorship.

Signor Scalfaro looked relieved, and said that patience had paid off. His move comes after weeks of speculation after the resignation on January 11 of Lamberto Dini, the interim Prime Minister appointed just over a year ago after the collapse of the centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the leader of Forza Italia.

Signor Scalfaro's aim is to end the instability caused by an apparently endless series of weak coalitions known as "revolving door" governments. Signor Maccanico's administration will be Italy's 55th government since the Second World War.

The outcome is a setback for Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the "post-Facist" Alleanza Nazionala, who almost alone among the main party leaders had held out for elections. Opinion polls suggested that he would have gained votes, whereas Signor Berlusconi, who is on trial for corruption, would have lost ground as would the parties of the Centre Left. Signor Scalfaro played on these fears by threatening to call an election unless the parties came to terms.

Signor Fini nonetheless joined other party leaders in giving the Maccanico appointment a cautious welcome, saying the Prime Minister-designate had "always acted impartially".

Signor Maccanico will today begin to try to form a Cabinet. It will include the key parties of both Left and Right, but is unlikely to include the Northern League led by Umberto Bossi, who yesterday remarked caustically that Maccanico sounded like mechanic in Italian and that the new Prime Minister was yet another technocrat rather than a real politician.

Signor Maccanico said he hoped his Government would enjoy "solid and serious" backing and could continue the reform begun in 1993, when Italy adopted a partial first-past-the-post electoral system in conjunction with proportional representation.

Shadowy 'fixer' takes top job

By Richard Owen

LIKE his predecessor Lamberto Dini, Antonio Maccanico has the reputation of being a technocrat and is hence a suitable candidate to pursue Italy's reform process.

However, unlike Signor Dini, who alienated politicians while in office, Signor Maccanico has some hope of gaining all party backing. Now 71, he has spent a lifetime in the backroom of Italian politics, and as one observer noted: "He knows where the bodies are buried."

After years at the elbow of successive Italian leaders as a "fixer", Signor Maccanico has instant access to the most powerful figures in Italy. He acquired the nickname "The Mechanic", not only as a play on his name but also because of his skill in manipulating the government machine. Now, can emerge from the shadows as leader in his own right. He served as head of the Prime Minister's office for Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who was leader between April 1993 and May 1994.

Born in August 1924, near Naples, Signor Maccanico studied law at Pisa. He became a parliamentary official in 1947 at the age of 23, when Italy was reshaping its democratic structure after Mussolini's period of fascism. Except for a one-year stint as a banker, he has been a career politician.

Maccanico: adept at backroom politics

Spa cures run dry in Köhl's painful cuts

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

GERMAN workers, particularly the rheumatic ones accustomed to regular, paid spa cures, were yesterday up in arms about plans by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to cut social welfare spending to keep the country on target for monetary union.

"This could hit us very badly," said a spokesman for Germany's spa resorts, which have been benefiting from unusually generous provisions allowing ordinary workers to take the waters. Some civil servants have been taking cures every two years, with the cost paid by the state health insurance and their salary paid by the employer as usual. Now Herr Kohl wants Germans to take only three weeks' cure every four years. If the cure lasts longer, the patient will have to sacrifice part of his or her annual holiday.

For many Germans this will be the most painful cut of all. Spa life — with its regular glasses of fresh spring water, its mud and herbal packs — is one of the few remaining throwbacks to the leisured 19th century. In the years of the postwar-economic miracle, the annual cure provided by the welfare state kept public service and industrial workers going at their breakneck pace.

The most fashionable spas, such as Baden-Baden, were usually out of financial reach — hotel costs were not always paid — but scores of minor German resorts, almost always identified by the preface *Bad* (bath), rediscovered old mineral springs and set themselves up as centres of restorative medicine. Doctors have usually been understanding in signing release forms for a cure.

The fact is that Herr Kohl's package is designed more to encourage and stimulate small businesses than to prompt workers to work harder. Unemployment benefit will be available for longer than one year only to those older than 45 years. Previously the lower age limit was 42.

هكذا: ابن التأمل

Transatlantic alliance is vital for European security, French President tells Congress

Chirac calls for reform of Nato's military role

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

President Chirac, left, and President Clinton outside the White House yesterday during the ceremony to welcome the first French leader in 12 years

PRESIDENT CHIRAC, on the first state visit to America by a French leader in 12 years, yesterday proposed a transatlantic charter to reform Nato and place more responsibility for security on Europe.

In his address to a joint session of Congress before *talks with* President Clinton, M Chirac called for a renewed partnership between the United States and its Nato allies. He said American commitment, both militarily and politically, was still essential to *the stability and* security of a growing Europe, but he emphasised that Washington need not always play an active role.

"The best security today lies in solidarity," said M Chirac after receiving a standing ovation from the Republican majority on Capitol Hill. "*The* reform of Nato must also enable the European allies to assume fully their responsibilities, with the support of Nato facilities, wherever the United States does not wish to engage *its ground forces*."

Thirty years after de Gaulle had withdrawn French forces from Nato, he said, France was once more at the heart of the alliance. In reforming Nato, the French President recommended the adoption of a charter as a "solemn sign of the vitality of our alliance" and *a pillar of global* leadership in the 21st century.

An enlarged European Union and a single currency would be a natural part of European progression. Already, M Chirac said, there *was a balance between the two* continents with three million Europeans working in American companies and the same number of Americans working in Europe.

The joint military action in *Bosnia-Herzegovina between* Britain, France and America underscored the need for Nato to adapt similarly in terms of security. "To a universe that is no longer that in which it was born," M Chirac said, "I call *for a renewed partnership* between Europe, engaged in its own construction, including in the field of defence, and our North American allies."

A number of Democrats had boycotted the address *yesterday, claiming that M* Chirac's proclamation on Monday to abandon nuclear tests had come too late in the wake of six French experiments in the South Pacific. He nevertheless received warm *applause after making* a pledge that France had finished its nuclear testing "once and for all".

Republicans have long admired the "bulldozer" style of M Chirac's foreign policy *which, before recent American* intervention in Bosnia and Ireland, had been a refreshing contrast to the wavering image of Mr Clinton. For his part, M Chirac has been a staunch admirer of America *since his sojourn in the United* States as a student at Harvard in 1953. He washed dishes at Howard Johnson, was briefly engaged to a girl from South Carolina who called him "honey chile" and wound up *in New Orleans courting such* jazz greats as Cab Calloway.

Despite the warmth of his reception, particularly from Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, M Chirac touched on several areas which will un*dermine the more* radical isolationist programme of some Republicans long opposed to American intervention in the world and still resentful of M Chirac *for his* influential role in reversing American policy *over Bosnia.*

Insisting that America resist any temptation towards unilateralism, the French leader said that Europe offered three times the amount of foreign aid as the United States. Citing *threats* from Aids and disasters like Chernobyl, illegal *immigration*, religious fanaticism and ethnic hatred, M Chirac said the biggest threat was underdevelopment.

It was a moral obligation for *the West, he said, to help the* poorest nations of the world to prosper. He urged Congress to support the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and other international bodies that brought the alliance closer together diplomatically and in terms of trade.

The address, the fourth by a French President since the Second World War, was conducted in French, *a language* that was studiously absent from the White House menu last night. Under Hillary Clinton, state dinner menus are written in English rather than in the French used in the Reagan and Bush years.

WORLD SUMMARY

Internet porn leads to arrest

Tokyo: A businessman was arrested in Tokyo yesterday on suspicion of distributing pornography on the Internet (Peregrine Hodson writes).

Hiroshi Kamekura, 28, is *the first person in Japan* to be arrested in a criminal case involving the Internet. The arrest followed a police raid on his home and the house of a high school student. Mr Kamekura has admitted to *police that he knew* it was wrong to disseminate porno*graphic images, but said* he was interested by the Internet's operation.

Although Japan is one of the most advanced countries when it comes to computers, the Japanese have been slow *to catch on to the Internet*, not least because most communications are in English.

Mugabe faces poll challenge

Harare: President Mugabe lost the chance of a walkover in his quest for a third term as Zimbabwe's executive head of *state when officials accepted* the challenges put forward by Abel Muzorewa, 71, who was Prime Minister of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, and Ndabaningi Sithole, 77, the veteran African nationalist leader (Michael *Hartnack writes). Observers* say neither has a chance of defeating Mr Mugabe.

Bahrain expels Iranian envoy

Bahrain, shaken by demonstrations, expelled an Iranian diplomat for spying (Michael Binyon writes). The Government has virtually named Iran as the instigator of the riots, largely by Shia groups which have called for a resto*ration of the 1975 constitution.* Three dissident Muslim clergy, trained in Iran, were expelled in December 1994.

Dissident in line for peace prize

Peking: China criticised the nomination of Wei Jingsheng, a *leading Chinese dissident*, for the Nobel Peace Prize *(James Pringle writes). It said* Mr Wei, sentenced to 14 years' jail last December, was a convicted criminal and not qualified for such an award. He was nominated by 81 members of the US Congress and Japanese politicians.

The father of all ambitions

Jerusalem: A man who has 42 children in the United Arab Emirates, aims to be the *country's biggest father* (Christopher Walker writes). "If God wills, I may get 60 sons," Salim Juma Mubarak told the daily *Khaleej Times*. His three wives are all expecting babies. He has 22 sons.

Botched brewery visit fails to refresh flagging Dole

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ROBERT DOLE'S handlers arranged for the *72-year-old* presidential candidate to visit a New Hampshire brewery late on Wednesday, then abruptly cancelled the engagement when they discovered it produced a beer called "Old Man Ale".

Hours later the visit was restored after Steve Merrill, New Hampshire's Governor and leading Dole supporter, argued that to be seen ducking *the* age issue would look even worse. Mr Dole gamely held up a bottle of "*Old Man Ale*" for the cameras, tasted it, and declared it "young and fresh".

This botched outing underscored how everything is suddenly going wrong for Mr Dole after months as the Republicans' undisputed frontrunner. A *Boston Globe poll yesterday gave* Steve Forbes, the free-spending publishing tycoon, a nine-point lead over Mr Dole in New Hampshire with less than three weeks until that state's primary. A second, more reliable poll gave *Mr Dole a* six-point lead over Mr Forbes, but everyone agrees the race has narrowed dramatically over the past few days.

In Washington, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, further boosted *Mr Forbes's* credibility by praising him as a "*genuine risk taker*" and challenging the conventional wisdom that a political outsider cannot win the Republican nomination.

The Republican party's worries go beyond producing a *viable presidential nominee*, however. Exit polls showed it lost Tuesday's Senate by-election in Oregon because women — infuriated by Republican assaults on social programmes, abortion rights and Hillary Clinton — turned out in unprecedented force *and voted heavily Democratic.*

National polls confirm that the "gender gap" has widened to historic proportions since the Republicans seized Capitol Hill in 1994 and this could cost the party dearly in November's *congressional and presidential* elections.

In Oregon 10 per cent more men voted Republican than Democrat, while 8 per cent more women voted Democratic than Republican. What made the difference was that a remarkable 57 per cent of *voters were women.*

A *Wall Street Journal* poll in December showed men equally divided between Mr Clinton and Mr Dole, but women backing the President by 54 per cent to 36. They *overwhelmingly considered* social problems such as education and poverty more important than the Republican priority of deficit reduction.

A principal reason the Republicans won Congress in 1994 was a low female vote with a majority of white women voting Republican. Mr Clinton won the White House in 1992 with just 46 per cent of the women's vote. In 1976 men and women voted in identical percentages for Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Monks held over foetus 'swindle'

***Tokyo:* Police arrested nine Buddhist monks yesterday *on suspicion of organising* swindles that may total £200 million (Peregrine Hodson writes). Two of the men are accused of demanding cash for exorcising "bad spirits", including the souls of aborted foetuses.**

According to Japanese *Buddhist belief, the souls* inhabit a nether world and prayers, offerings and monetary donations are necessary to help them to a better world.

Gishun Nishikawa, a senior monk at Myokakuji temple in Wakayama prefecture, and Keijiro Yano, who *heads Monganji temple* in Nagoya, were arrested on suspicion of fraud. Another seven monks have been arrested in related frauds and swindles at 27 temples throughout Japan.

***Brother Nishikawa* is alleged to have developed a lucrative sideline selling images of the Buddha to women who had abortions, cashing in on their sense of guilt and superstition.**

Death toll mounts as seized Tamils name suicide bomber

FROM VIJITHA YAPA IN COLOMBO

THE death toll in the bomb*ing at the* Central Bank building in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, rose to 81 yesterday.

Two of the attackers, captured by the public as they fled from the scene on Wednesday, *told police* that they were members of the Liberation *Tigers of Tamil Elam*. The two men, known simply as Rasu and Kittu, said the suicide lorry driver was called Raju. The lorry, filled with rice husk, had left Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka on Monday and had arrived in Colombo the next day. It was escorted to the Central Bank by three trishaws filled with armed rebels. The two captured rebels had a powerful radio receiver, rifles, grenades and suicide kits when they were overpowered.

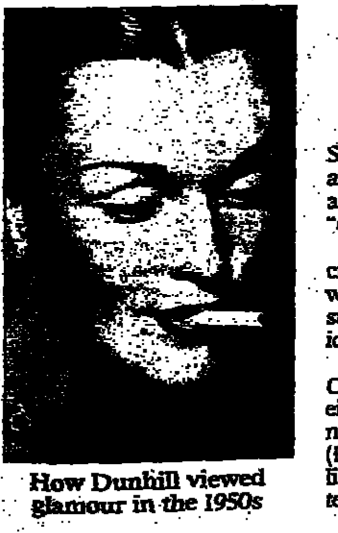
Meanwhile, President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said the attack was an act of desperation by the Tigers. She said it had come at a time when the Government was making a genuine effort to find a lasting solution to the causes of terrorism. She said terrorism had to be eliminated and thanked the people for their patience.

It is significant that for the first time after a major bomb explosion, the Government *did not rush to impose* a curfew. The people reacted *calmly and members of the* minority Tamil community said they did not feel threatened, but were frightened. The attempt by successive governments to show that terrorism by a few individuals *should not be used to* condemn the minority Tamil com*munity seems to have* succeeded.

The Governor of the Central Bank, A S Jayewardene, said that money in the vaults was safe as were certain vital documents. The activities of *the bank would* be back to normal in a few days. Mr Jayewardene said that of the bank's 2,300 employees, about 1,800 worked in the bombed building. He said 40 of their staff had died and 152 were injured. Banks and business houses functioned as normal yesterday except for those in the immediate area of the blast. But traffic on the main road past the president's residence of Temple Trees, near the British High Commission, *which was reduced to one lane* each way from last year, will *be further restricted. Only* cars will be allowed to use the road from Friday.

Meanwhile, hospital authorities said 53 of the 81 dead had so far been identified. Soldiers and firemen who began clearing the rubble yesterday feared there may be *more bodies buried under the* wreckage, though the chances of finding anyone alive was described as "very remote".

Hospital authorities said the majority of the more than 1,400 people injured were *treated for cuts from glass.* Doctors at the Government General Hospital *said* they had never experienced so many people needing medical attention simultaneously, but that they had coped.



How Dunhill viewed glamour in the 1950s

Videos put the fire back into smoking

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SMOKERS in America, besieged by the *anti-nicotine* lobby and clean-air fanatics, are buoying their morale by watching "cigarette videos".

The 30-minute films, distributed discreetly among addicts of the weed, show women doing little more than smoking a succession of cigarettes. In modern America *there are few things more* wicked.

Edward Luisser, a shopkeeper from Oklahoma City, has made a selection of eight films which are selling in increasing numbers to embattled smokers. The $25 (£16) movies feature fully clad women lighting up and then smoking as many as *ten cigarettes*. The films concentrate on smoking techniques, such as the "French inhale", once popular on the silver screen. The smoke is exhaled momentarily from the mouth, and then inhaled briskly up the nostrils. Some of Mr Luisser's films dwell on packet opening, or the tapping out of the first cigarette.

Mr Luisser, 42, who learned to appreciate Winston cigarettes while a sergeant in the US army, took his inspiration from hazy memories of New York in the 1950s. "I have tried to recreate all those elegant women who used to smoke, wearing veiled hats *and* opera gloves," *he said* yesterday. He researched the photographic techniques of old black-and-white portraitists and invited female friends to *sit for his cameras. The films bear their* names, for instance *Paula* and *April*. His typical customer, he said, is "at the upper end of the bell curve, intellectually".

Mike Williams, editor of a pro-smoking newsletter, *Smoke Signals*, said that a number of such videos were being made, and sold healthily. *A very few, made by* companies separate from Mr Luisser, contain mildly suggestive moments, but most of them eschew sexuality. Professor Richard Klein, of the French (Gitanes) *department of Cornell University*, New York, said: "The anti-smoking people have only glamourised smoking."

Space frontier pushed back

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN *astronomers* have discovered the most distant galaxy yet, some 14 billion light years from the Earth.

Its huge distance means that it must have formed very early in the history of the *universe, perhaps no more* than a billion years after the Big Bang. The discovery was made by astronomers from the California Institute of Technology, *using the world's* largest optical telescope in Hawaii. Dr Thomas Barlow, one of the team responsible, *says that* the galaxy was found when the astronomers were *observing an even more distant object*, a quasar.

What the astronomers see, he says, is "the shadow of the galaxy in the spectrum of the quasar". The observations, reported in *Astrophysical Research Letters, enable the* galaxy to be dated by measuring its red shift — the amount by which its light is shifted towards the red end of the spectrum. Dr Barlow said: "This is essentially the highest red-shift galaxy that we've detected, which means it's the closest to the beginning of the universe".

The newly discovered galaxy has some similarities to more recent galaxies, including the Milky Way. But the galaxy has quantities of carbon, oxygen, silicon, aluminium and iron only one half *to 1 per cent of those in the* Milky Way. This confirms that the light we are seeing came from the galaxy when it was very young, and had not had time for the stars it contains to generate heavier elements.

Available from Dixons, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Tandy, Currys, Comet, John Lewis Partnership, Granada, Radio Rentals, Tempo, Norweb, Hutchison Telecom Retail, Escom and other leading high street and independent stockists nationwide.
Call 0800 80 10 80 for full details.

مكتبنا عن الاعلام

Small body, big voice, big heart

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Thomas Quasthoff is a world-class singer first — and a thalidomide victim second

CHRIS HARRIS

Thomas Quasthoff couldn't study at a music college because the rules insisted that students of singing must also play an instrument, and there were no concessions for a boy without arms

The most remarkable thing about Thomas Quasthoff is his voice. Not just his singing voice, but his speaking voice, which is rich and deep, punctuated with bursts of stentorian laughter that seem fantastically vigorous coming from one so small.

Wednesday night's applause, at the end of his London debut recital at the Wigmore Hall, was tumultuous. As he walked on stage and began to sing Schubert's *Ganymed*, tears started in many eyes. He gave us Prometheus, the Erl-King, the Dwarf. His choice of songs — especially sardonic, perhaps, was Goethe's *Grenzen der Menscheit* ("Man's Limitations"): "For no mortal shall measure himself against the gods" — affected the audience deeply, and set them pondering on the courageous spirit of a singer who has overcome the most daunting of limitations.

Quasthoff was born near Hanover in 1959. His mother had taken thalidomide (the drug prescribed to combat morning sickness in pregnancy, which resulted in terrible growth defects in otherwise perfectly healthy babies) and Thomas was an early victim. "A pioneer," he says with a burst of laughter, "a nice word for a bad fact." His tiny hands grow straight from his shoulders. His legs are dwarfishly short. But his lungs are strong, his face is handsome, his mind razor-sharp, he is the most wholeheartedly enthusiastic man you could meet and, of course, he has this extraordinary voice.

Nobody could spend a lifetime dwelling on misfortune and he is quick to dismiss the subject — after a brief passing reference to the powerful pharmaceutical industry that allowed a drug to be marketed even after it was suspected of causing disability. "That is what you call capitalism I think. Heh heh!" He has to live with "the fact" every day. So he is thankful for his voice, and for loving parents who encouraged him.

He started as a boy soprano in a choir at 14. There was constant music at home: piano, saxophone, clarinet; he grew up hearing Mozart and Bach, his elder brother's Jethro Tull records, his own collection of jazz. He wanted to study at a music college, but the rules insisted that students of singing must also play a musical instrument. No special concession could be made for a boy without arms. Instead, he read law at university, and later worked in broadcasting.

But he never gave up singing; he took private lessons, and is glad of it. "I have had time to develop my voice in quiet, and not be influenced by the intrigues of the music high school. Others study for three or four years, then go in large opera houses and have to sing parts that are much too difficult for their voice, and their careers are often very short."

He owes his technique to a brilliant voice teacher, Charlotte Lehmann. "And I think my way of singing is very influenced by my own life, my own feelings, troubles, happinesses. At 36 I am intelligent enough to know what is important and what is not."

The turning point in his life was 1988, when he won first prize in the ARD International Music Competition in Munich. "I ask myself, do I win this competition because I am talented? Or do I have a bonus for my disability? But I think my life since then is a confirmation of the jury's decision. Sometimes a person wins a competition and after a few years, nobody remembers the name."

His hands flutter expressively as he talks. "I am able, really I am ABLE, to enjoy. And that makes my life very rich. I am a very gifted person! Blessed, I mean."

One blessing is his gregariousness. "If you are not in a good relationship with nature, and with other people, if you are not positive and able to love, then you will never be a good artist, never. It is a symbiosis. If you are an unfriendly, ignoring person, don't be a singer. If you are cold, you have a cold voice."

The warmth of his personality captivated the English Chamber Orchestra, with whom he did a Mediterranean music cruise last summer. I am told Quasthoff flung himself into shipboard life — swimming, drinking, playing table tennis. And after the Wigmore concert, in the green room, friends flung themselves down on the floor to hug and kiss him.

"The first time I come into the concert hall, I know people think, 'Oh my God, this disability, oh my God'. But that is completely over when I start to sing. And then, it is not just that they say 'There is such power in his voice' — there must be something else that I cannot describe. The audience must think: 'Something happens.' It is for the audience to say what it is."

> 'I am able, really ABLE, to enjoy. It makes my life rich'

He believes that conquering disability must have given him an added sensitivity. "Because it's work to accept disability, and it's not a work that ever finishes. At the moment I have a normal life, I am a successful person, I am very independent, and I get the gift to be loved, the biggest present you can get, bigger than the most successful concert."

The next opportunity we have to hear him is on March 12 at the Barbican, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, when he will sing Mozart with the English Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Pinchas Zukerman. He will also sing Britten's *War Requiem* in Edinburgh this August. He is hotly in demand; booked to work with Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Colin Davis later this year.

"Our professional life is not always easy. I love my job but I don't love the business. If I only work with music I have the most beautiful profession in the world, but the bad fact is that agents want money — not in my case, Tania Collette is not only a wonderful agent but a good critic — but some agents think not about the singer but only that he is good for the agency.

"I don't want to get famous, I want to get better. I want to work with good conductors, I never want to be a slave of my music life. My private life, my private love, is as important. I don't want to sing 120 concerts a year and ask myself when I am 53, where did my life go?

"I am in the world to read, walk, smell, listen, enjoy nature, sit down with the singing of birds and the atmosphere of flowers," (he has a horror of polluted, traffic-clogged cities) "enjoy being with friends, and going to the theatre, and being with my brother, or being alone with books, or being together with my girlfriend.

"Sitting with the person you love in the same room, exchanging no words, look at each other in the eyes. The home of my girlfriend is so beautiful to see. How she has arranged the room, so beautiful with old wood, and nice things..." He stops himself: "But that is my private life and it is only mine."

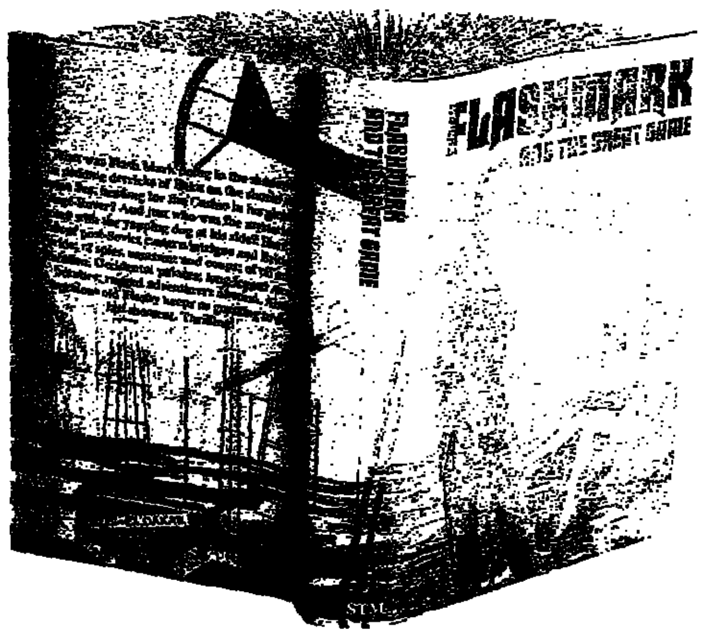
But, he adds, a beautiful room can give peace and pleasure. "A room like this one" (we are in the house of Charles Spencer, the accompanist, who has tastefully converted his Victorian house in Kennington) "reminds you there is so much to enjoy in life, literature, theatre. When I am finished singing I will definitely be a rich person, not in money so much, but I am so interested in everything. I am a man who will never in my life sit down in front of the television and say wearily 'Oh God, let's have a look what's on the other programme'..."

He calls himself a severe critic of other singers. "I am not able to sing every concert in the world for baritone or bass baritone. So I am happy that there are plenty of very good, very beautiful other voices. In Tokyo we had to have a new soprano at the last minute, and when Dorothea Roschmann began to sing at the rehearsal, she was so absolutely brilliant and beautiful it made me cry.

"As I get older, I think somebody up there has a very helping hand to influence my life. Not only in concerts but in my private life I feel that what we call God is very near. Because I've got many presents in my life. I'm thankful every day."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

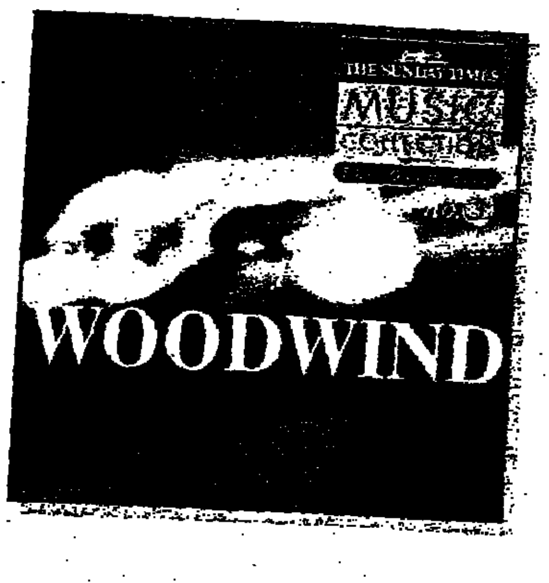
MARK THATCHER SPIES HIS CHANCE



It's the Great Game all over again. Oil-rich Baku in the former Soviet Union is a hotbed of intrigue as nations and entrepreneurs battle for the spoils. And Mark Thatcher is after a slice of the action . . .
See the **Magazine** on Sunday

A CLASSIC CD FOR JUST £1.98

Another great CD at a great price. Woodwind, the third CD in The Sunday Times Music Collection, features 11 classical composers and highlights their use of flutes, oboes, clarinets and bassoons
See **The Culture**



THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

In the shadow of the stalker

Dr Raj Persaud

reports on a frightening and violent obsession

How often do stalkers physically assault their quarries?

With the Home Office considering new measures to deter stalkers, and the police hunting a stalker who raped a woman while she was under their protection, the need to understand this obsessional behaviour is urgent. In 25 per cent of cases stalkers eventually assault their victims.

Although the fan pursuing a celebrity usually grabs the headlines, in half the cases the stalker has had some kind of prior relationship with the victim that has turned sour.

Last year two American clinical psychologists, Dr Reid Meloy and Dr Shayna Gothard, published extensive research into the characteristics of stalkers. The vast majority are men, with an average age of 35: most are unemployed, and 60 per cent have had previous psychiatric treatment.

However, compared with other mentally disordered offenders they are usually better educated and of at least average intelligence — 25 per cent were above-average. Their resourcefulness explains the frequent inability of victims to elude capture.

Meloy and Gothard uncovered chilling cases in which one stalker posed as a police officer to obtain an address from a motor records department, while another decoded unlisted phone numbers of his victim whenever she changed them by using telephone installation equipment.

If they are so smart, however, why do they ignore their victims' furious and fearful rejections? They are socially isolated: only one in seven stalkers is married, many have never had a close relationship. Extremely sensitive to personal rejection, their anger at a rebuff often provokes the pursuit, and may provide a defence against loneliness.

But what about the cases where victim and stalker have never met at all? Many adolescents go through a brief stage of obsessional following when they pursue pop stars they have never met.

Irrational infatuation of this kind is usually both harmless and temporary, but psychiatrists are aware that a small group pursue those they idolise with an intensity which reflects a disturbed rationality rather than simple admiration. Some of these suffer from erotomania, a sudden conviction than an older person of high social status is in love with them.

The pressing issue for police is to assess which stalkers are likely to be violent. Meloy and Gothard found that the best predictor of a stalker attacking his quarry is a previous history of violence, as well as drug or alcohol abuse.

Dr Robert Menzies and colleagues at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada have found that if a stalker has delusions about just one person he is likely to be relatively harmless, but if he has delusions about many it strongly predicts violence.

However, the violence is not usually directed at an object of desire, but often those perceived to be standing in the way of the consummation of the relationship. A public figure's partner is particularly vulnerable to violent attack from stalkers of this kind.

The powerful emotional needs which underlie stalking explain why the pursuers themselves often have a paradoxical sense of being controlled by their victim, and even claim they were the one trying to end the relationship.

BOOK A VALENTINE £69 SPECIAL ON EUROSTAR TO PARIS OR BRUSSELS.

0345 881 881
EUROPEAN PASSENGER SERVICES
Ask for details about special offers in Belgian restaurants. Special conditions apply.

Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* has made heroin chic. **Giles Coren** discovers the depressing reality

Why drug addiction is not a style issue

Reformed heroin addict Eamon Doherty acted as a technical adviser on the film

February 23 sees the opening of *Trainspotting*. The film, based on Irvine Welsh's 1993 cult novel, and made by the same team as last year's hippest film, *Shallow Grave*, follows a group of friends through the highs and lows of heroin addiction.

It involves violence, death and the betrayal of friends. So far, so standard. The difference with this film is that while it highlights the pain of heroin addiction, it also makes no attempt to hide the pleasure. And for that reason it is certain to cause controversy.

Already, it has resulted in heroin addiction becoming a style issue. In the magazines considered essential reading among those who think themselves young and hip, there is an uncomfortable element of "heroin chic". In this week's edition of *The Face*, for example, the star of the film, Ewan McGregor, is pictured in wasted fashion, with his physical appearance as an addict described as follows: "To accurately portray junkie and Pot Noodle boy Mark Renton, McGregor has lost nearly two stone and shaved his head. He looks shit and looks great." It is hip, in other words, to be hooked. The piece is called "Hey hey it's the junkies".

On another page, an article about the soundtrack to the film — which is expected to be a huge seller in its own right — is headlined "Smacksonic!"

And yet *Time Out* puts McGregor on its front cover, handsome and haunted, with the words, "Take the best orgasm you ever had. Multiply it by a thousand. You're still nowhere near it". Yes, they are lines from the book, but the book surrounds them with 300 pages of grim reality. *Time Out* exploits only the sex-appeal. Irvine Welsh never meant for this. And nor, one assumes, did the film-makers.

Honesty, they insist, was a primary concern. Their quest for verisimilitude took them to Glasgow, although the book is set in Edinburgh, because the drug scene there is closer to the way the Scottish capital was in the mid-1980s, when the story is set.

They even used a technical adviser, reformed addict Eamon Doherty, a counsellor at Glasgow's Calton Athletic rehabilitation project. His story is anything but chic.

He was a heroin addict for seven years; his brother died of an overdose last April.

"He started when he was 15, about a year before me," says Eamon, who speaks with evangelical enthusiasm. "He would have been 33 now, but he knew what he was doing. It's no use complaining. I got into it myself through other drugs I had been doing since I was 12 or 13. I thought it was great at first, when I had the money. And then I started on selling drugs, and stealing from my family, and my standards went the same way as my stereo and all my other possessions.

"Then I had a collapse just before my 18th birthday, and spent nine weeks in hospital with septicaemia. They had a priest in to give me the last rites. And when I recovered, I was back on it as soon as I got out. After that it was no fun anymore. I was just doing it to get normal. It was seven years before I stopped."

On the film set Eamon supervised the injection scenes — into prosthetic arms — and helped the actors to tune their physical reactions to the drug. "The film was so realistic it was frightening," says 24-year-old Danny Jackson, another former addict. "It took me right back to the days when I was on it. All of us from the club who saw it felt the same. The first feelings were that good, the reality of it was that bad."

Eamon says: "If I was making the film, I would end with rehabilitation. But then no one would go and see it, would they? Nobody wants to go and see a man sitting in his room talking about his problems. When I spoke to *The Face* I had no idea they would do this. They've tried to write down my accent. It's all 'och aye the noo' as if I was thick or something.

"They might think Ewan McGregor looks good," he says, "but in truth if he was really an addict he'd be physically, mentally and spiritually dead. You don't eat or wash. Your whole body breaks down — 82 per cent of jaggers [addicts who inject] here have hepatitis C, and they say only 1 per cent are HIV positive. Well, they are transmitted in the same way, and HIV has been around longer. So you can work it out for yourself."

Ewen Bremner as Spud and Ewan McGregor as Mark Renton in *Trainspotting*

The mood at the rehabilitation project is upbeat, but the stories are dismal. David Main, 24, played football for Celtic under-16s and the Scottish youth team. Then he started on the drugs, missed a trial for the Celtic senior team, and it was all over. He is the same age as Ryan Giggs.

If their stories are sad, sadder still are the ones of those still dependent on heroin. An hour or so before addict Joey passed out, he had been selling copies of the *Big Issue* at Glasgow Central Station. Like 90 per cent of Glasgow's vendors, he sells the magazine to pay for his addiction.

From the station he walked to Posil to buy his Dan Mac ("Dan Mac, man. Smack"). He had looked drawn and hollow at the station, a dozen miserably hard years older than his 31. We talk in a tenement block, where the windows are not glass but sheet steel. "Welcome to the real world," Joey says. "This is the badlands. I love it here. Dodging the bandits and all. That's what it's all about.

"But I've got my kit. And nobody can take it off me. I've got 43 stitches here in my face, 30 on the outside, 13 on the in. They gave it to me two months ago, but they didn't get my kit. And they didn't get it when they used a machete, or when they stabbed me here [he shows the scar in his back], or here [under his rib cage] or here [in his abdomen]. I'm only nine stone, and I'm sick. But no one has ever got my stash," Joey says.

He delves into the washbag he carries with him everywhere and pulls out a medical swab. "They give you these at the needle exchange to clean your arm with before you inject, but we don't use them for that. They're full of alcohol, so they burn great for cooking up your kit. I couldn't bang it in my arms. I can't use them for another six months, because I've got no veins left there. And you've got to be careful to hit a vein. Sometimes you think you've hit one, when you haven't, and the next day it swells up like a golf ball. But I cut out all my own abscesses with a knife, I don't bother with doctors." He shows off the abscess scars on his legs, and no one would mistake them for the work of a doctor.

"It was about 1980 when I started jagging. I was living with my ma and da but most of the time I was in this house with a lot of 25 to 35-year-olds. They were always well out of it, and didn't interest me too much. And then someone said 'Give the wee man a bit'. They put a tie round my arm, and I looked away while they gave me a £2 bit. I was telling them to hurry up and get it over with, and they said 'it's done'. Next thing I came round and I was sh***ing this 35-year-old bird. I thought 'this is it', and next night I was round there asking where to get more.

"I was still at school at the time, and soon everyone was doing it, that's how it was then. I worked as a roofer for a time, but when things got really bad I couldn't do that anymore," Joey says.

"So I started stealing. I never rob from my own kind, never from the poor. I go up to Bearsden and King's Park and rob the TV people and the footballers. I'm a regular in the prisons. My last stretch was 18 months, but it's not so bad.

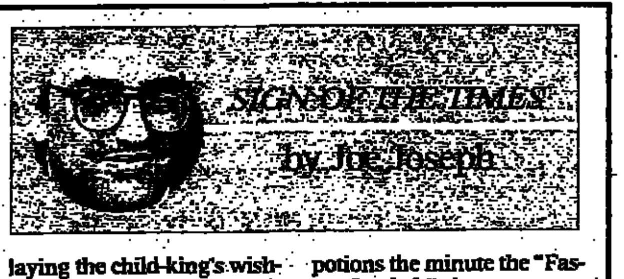
"The kit's easier to get inside than it is outside. Your lumber comes in and you kiss her, she passes it into your mouth, you swallow, and next morning you take it out. And when the book came out and we heard it was about jagging, everyone wanted it. There was a copy on my landing, and it was five months before I got a read."

Joey adds: "It's brilliant. Being an addict is just like it says in the book. I'll never get off it now. My sister died of it two years ago, but my younger sister is 21 and has never smoked a joint. I'm so proud of her, because smack is back now in a bad way.

"For a while the kids were just E-ing, but now they do heroin to come down off the Ecstacy, and it's in all the clubs. They start smoking it, and they think they're not junkies. But when their tolerance gets up, they jag. And that's it. They'll all end like me. It's a sad existence, but I'm not looking for pity. I know what I'm doing. I'm too far gone for that. I'm a lost cause."

He went back to the station, and began his selling again. Another six or seven hours, another £25, another quarter-gram. That is how is life is for him, a cycle of scrounging and injecting, or the horrors of withdrawal. There is nothing else left.

This, according to *The Face*, is "shit and great".



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Joe Joseph

EVEN THAT clever cookie Wittgenstein never solved the eternal riddle that keeps philosophers awake at night: why do children have to have parents?

Or, to put it in technical philosophical jargon: why do some poor kids have to have plonkers for parents who dress them in Timberland shoes, Calvin Klein jeans and Ralph Lauren shirts before taking them off for lunch on Saturdays to a Covent Garden restaurant that isn't designed for two-year-olds?

Few two-year-olds are ready for sophistication. To a two-year-old, grissini are just rusks for the overbred, fried calamari tastes like Chicken McNuggets that have gone off, and fish fingers are a godsend. If God wanted two-year-olds to eat goujons of sole, he would have made all children French.

In France, or Italy, or China you see restaurant tables thronged with lunchers spanning three generations, with grandpa sitting calmly next to his grandson.

But in England, when certain parents take their children to posh restaurants, it's as if they have stepped through Alice's looking-glass into a topsy-turvy world where children call the shots. Attention, chairs, cutlery, eyes, everything focuses on the child. Like solicitous courtiers relaying the child-king's wishes to the world, parents quiz the child about his desires.

"He wants a Coke," they then bark at the waiter, but double-check just in case. "A Coke? You sure? What about apple juice instead, poppet?"

YOU CAN always tell if these parents are with their first child, because they will ask the waitress to press the chef for a list of all ingredients, in every dish, for fear of polluting their child's body with preservatives or E-numbers.

These are the same parents who, on long plane journeys, lull their babies to sleep by humming African tribal lullabies that someone in their antenatal class told them was the holistically correct way of soothing their baby to sleep.

By the time their third child comes along, even a Malteser-flavoured pizza that has been on the floor more times than Frank Bruno is regarded as highly nutritious, while on aeroplanes the baby is stuffed with high-dosage sleeping potions the minute the "Fasten Seatbelt" sign goes on.

It's true that children are not the only ones who behave boorishly and prattle all day. MPs do it, *and we even pay them to.* And of course, there are many restaurant-friendly children who will yelp and hurl linguini only in certain emergency situations, such as (a) if they're hungry or (b) if they're thirsty.

Another problem with child lunchers is that they can't distinguish between "laughing at" and "laughing with", which is irritating when you want to make a specific point of laughing *at* them in what you regard as a superior, adult sort of way. Also, kids never have any spicy gossip.

But many adults don't mind such company. They look at a rich, spoilt child squawking "I prefer the chips at Le Caprice", and all they see is someone who is probably easy to fleece at poker. But don't count on junior's generosity. However big a kid's trust fund, somehow he never picks up the lunch tab.

Is someone poaching your nest egg

At the moment, you probably keep your savings in a Bank or Building Society account. It makes sense. Especially if you need money for everyday expenses like bills or small purchases.

However, if you want to build up a lump sum over a few years you might well be losing out. You see, the chances are that whenever you earn interest the taxman will take 20% or more. This can make a really large hole in your savings.

With Eagle Star, though, you don't have to pay him a penny. If you're able to put aside a small amount each month you can now save in the same way as some of the wealthiest people in Britain.

If you would like an information pack and would like to stop shelling out, please give us a call.

EAGLE STAR

Telephone: 0500 600 560

Call weekdays 8am – 8pm and Saturdays 9am – 2pm

As the plan is a PEP, its value, including reinvested income, can fluctuate and is not guaranteed. Eagle Star Direct is an introducer only to Eagle Star Marketing Group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO, for introducing clients for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business. Tax law is subject to changes which cannot be foreseen.

[illegible]

Philip Howard

■ The critics hate the stage version of *Les Enfants du Paradis* — I'll be there

Despite the rude press, I must go to see *Les Enfants du Paradis* on stage. Usually when the critics slink off to the pub during the last act, their excuse to the paying customers they are forcing to stand up for their exeunt is that they have to catch the early editions. But at the first night of *Les Enfants*, there was a stampede from the Barbican at the long-anticipated interval. And as they fled, the critics sprayed their most patronising insults and I-told-you-so's, and made excuses as feeble as having to make sure that the babysitter knew how to work the television zapper.

So one (perverse) reason for going to *Les Enfants* in the flesh is to see whether any play can be as bad as the critics allege. Usually the Royal Shakespeare Company can turn even such second-division plays as *The Taming of the Shrew* or *Peter Pan* to gold. The company is always interesting, as is Simon Callow. Another reason is that *Les Enfants* really is one of the best movies ever made, even though everyone says that it is. So the stage version got a panning for *lèse-majesté* from all who would put it in their top ten for solitary viewing on a desert island. For those who play this game, *Bicycle Thieves* is in, of course. For the western, shall it be *High Noon* or *The Unforgiven*? For the Marxists, *Duck Soup* beats *A Night at the Opera* by a short pun. And for the classical-spectacular wild-card choice, *Spartacus* or *Clash of the Titans*? In the modern section, *Strictly Ballroom* or *Babette's Feast*?

Not even the oldest film reviewer can have seen even a twentieth of the films made this century. We amateurs, who talk about the cinema more than we go, are limited in our desert-island choices by the few films we have seen, and by our circumstances at the time — of sitting in the crowded dark so wrapped up that we tore our trousers on the seat in front. And for me, *Les Enfants* always comes top. Partly because it has the joy of coming liberation at the end of the war, like that other top ten film, Laurence Olivier's *Henry V*. For the first night of *Les Enfants*, Arletty was in prison as a collaborator for having had a love affair with a Luftwaffe pilot. When reproached, she made the enigmatic reply: "My face belongs to the world, but the rest of me is my own."

But the most interesting reason for getting bottom-cramp at the Barbican is because *Les Enfants* reverses the usual artistic progression. The luvvies are running backwards, uphill. The Darwinian evolution (or devolution) in the media is: first the book, then the stage play and then the screenplay.

The novel works through words and the reader's imagination. The stage play works through words and the actor's art. The film works through images and the director's eye. "Don't come too close, you'll see through my talent," as John Gielgud said to the lighting cameraman on the set of *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. The progression used to be, book, play, film — for example from Henry James's *Washington Square* to *The Heiress* in three quantum hops.

It is no surprise that the only art medium perfected by the 20th century has reversed the process. Penguin now publishes the book of the film, and it goes to the top of the bestseller lists. *Sunset Boulevard* and *Grease* may not be your flute of champagne, but both soupy offspring of the movies are packing them in. Stage musicals are being made on the backs of *Animal Crackers* and *La Dolce Vita*, which will test the scriptwriter, for the words are made irrelevant by the pictures. In fact the screenplay is far better for *Les Enfants* than for most films, because it was written by a proper writer, Jacques Prévert. *Paris est tout petit pour ceux qui s'aiment comme nous d'un si grand amour.* The wild romance of, "It's so simple, love." And the actawr-laddy Lemaître demonstrating why Shakespeare does not go in French: *De l'économie, Horace, de l'économie* misses the tug-of-war of Old Norse monosyllable with Romance tetrasyllable of "Thrift, Horatio, thrift." I expect *Les Enfants* is better than the rattlesnakes' rattle. And anyway I must see whether Baptiste finds Garance in the carnival crowds at the end. Of *course* he does.

EARLY BLAIR
(After Bacon)

LATE BLAIR

More socialist than thou

Pig-headed though he may be, there is a quixotic grandeur about Arthur Scargill and his absurd new party

Bernard Levin

It is difficult to believe that it was only nine months ago that the great fight over Clause Four was won and lost. Indeed, some of my readers today will be at a loss to understand what the words mean, and many others, when asked what it was all about, would mutter something about Tony Blair and his followers, and leave it at that. And yet it is no exaggeration to say that if the Clause Four battle had been lost, so would have been the chances of a Labour government. Some clause, eh? Let's hear it just once again. It was:

> To secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry and service.

And *that* might have scuppered the Labour Party? Well, try a dip in the headlines: "Clause Four is consigned to dustbin of history", "Triumphant Blair", "Blair hails day of destiny".

Or, on the other side of the road, Arthur Scargill denouncing every word Blair seeks: "Following in the footsteps of failure", "Scargill calls for general strike", "Arthur Scargill relates the 'new realism' of the Labour leadership directly to the betrayals of the General Strike and the class collaboration of the 1920s".

Er . . . the 1920s, with or without betrayals, class collaboration and even a General Strike, were roughly three-quarters of a century ago. Surely Arthur Scargill has caught up this far?

No, he hasn't. But that is the great thing about Arthur, and the thing I greatly admire, and the thing I am now going to praise. The praise cannot be undiluted; he has made dreadful mistakes and worse than dreadful mistakes, but take out the darkness, the folly, the waste of words and actions, the quagmires that he has repeatedly led his followers into and there is yet a grandeur even in his absurdities and pig-headednesses. You can see that grandeur very clearly if you put Benn beside Scargill. These men were both entirely on the same side at the same time and in the same way, yet one stirs the waters every time he speaks, while the other tries to make a figure. (My eye just then fell upon a tiny cutting: "Arthur Scargill was hissed and slow-handclapped. Tony Benn sat sullen and silent, surrounded by political enemies.")

And now — the greatest folly imaginable, yet heroic at the same time — Arthur has founded a new party. The Socialist Labour Party it is called, and good luck to it, a great deal of which he will need. Never mind that new parties, in our system, can never thrive unless over decades; never mind that he has now no following to speak of; never mind that he has been thrown out of the real Labour Party (which, I suppose, he will call the fraudulent Labour Party, while no doubt also calling Tony Blair a fraudulent Labour Party leader); never mind that he will become a figure of laughter — never mind all of this and more. Arthur Scargill will not be defeated.

It is a remarkable story, is it not? Consider: when Ted Heath faced up to the miners, he was beaten good and proper, but pretended that he wasn't. When Margaret Thatcher fought them and beat them, it was the end not only for Scargill but for the whole world of coalmining.

But Arthur put his telescope to his blind eye, and — this is the most remarkable part of the story — most of his dwindling band was led by Arthur into quicksands and never seen again, though the dwindling band could see what was happening. Is that not a remarkable essay in loyalty? And doesn't it make Arthur much more heroic, as well as much more daft?

For not only has Arthur established a new party, he is trying it out. I am writing on the eve of a by-election; the election was necessary because of the death of Derek Enright, who had held the seat for many years. It is indeed one of the most solid seats in the country; at the last election, Derek Enright had a majority of 22,000, and the successor, Jon Trickett, can hardly fear his Tory enemy, who polled fewer than 8,000 votes. But if the Tory is unlikely to dent the Labour armour, what chance has Arthur Scargill?

True, Arthur has not taken the plunge himself: one of his cohorts is standing in for Arthur. The Arthurian candidate is a lady, Brenda Nixon, who fights under the banner of Women Against Pit Closures — hardly a clarion to make the voters come running. She has other problems: there are a dozen or so other candidates, including the National Democrat candidate, the Green candidate, the UK Independence candidate, the Natural Law candidate, the Lib-Dem, the Mark Thomas Friday Nights Channel 4 candidate, and of course our dear old friend, the Lord Sutch Official Monster Raving Loony candidate.

Oh, and I nearly forgot: the Tory candidate.

Now, what chance has Brenda Nixon to carry off the prize? Yet there she goes, with her campaigners in hopes of carrying off the prize. *And she is going into the fight with banners fluttering* — what does that say about Arthur Scargill?

Well, one thing it says about Arthur Scargill is that he lives in the past, but knows that the past has gone by. When he is jeered at, and he now gets more jeers than cheers, he says: "They were the same words used against Keir Hardie in 1888 when he first stood as an independent socialist. Now everyone wants to claim Keir Hardie as their own. People should learn a bit of their history." Yes, they should. But the tiny remark I have quoted — "They were the same words used against Keir Hardie in 1888 . . ." also contained a few more words, which I left out; they were, after the name Keir Hardie, ". . . one of the founding fathers of the Labour Party . . ." For, you see, most people today do not know who Keir Hardie is.

You and I would think that coalmining was a trade no human being should be obliged to take; indeed, I remember an article I wrote which finished with a prayer that it would be eliminated for ever very soon. Not so the miner; incredibly, he loved his trade, not least because of the tightly-knit communities. Then my prayer was answered, to the dismay of the miners. What does a superannuated coalminer do? Embroider pillow-cases? Draw the dole?

Even Arthur Scargill could not stop the blood-letting as more and more pits were closed; but at least he could denounce his enemies — those enemies who had given in and let Clause Four go. Now he is very close to making himself a fool; his new party will get a handful of votes — about the same number as Lord Sutch — and his new "party" will wither on the vine. What, I wonder, does he feel, or indeed say, about the pit which was taken over by a group of superannuated miners (nobody wanted it), who worked their butts off and not only made it the last pit in their area, but made a handsome profit too? Arthur speaks:

> *I feel a free man, like I've been let out of jail. There's a sense of relief. I feel almost exuberant, to be campaigning for a new party. We are all singing from the same socialist hymn-sheet — and we're not worried about offending the spin-doctors!*

But Arthur must know, even as he hides the truth from himself (he cannot hide it from others) that the very best he can hope for with his absurd Socialist Labour Party is a couple of deposits held, and even that is very unlikely.

Go back to the fight over Clause Four; if the man in the moon trained his telescope on the proceedings, he would be entirely nonplussed. He would see several camps, all on the same side of the battle, but with half of them fighting the other half. I dare not ask Arthur point-blank whether it is better to have a milksop Labour government or another Tory government; I say that I dare not ask him, not because he would hit me on the head with a rolling-pin, but because I fear he would say "Yes, it *is* better to have the Tories in again, than to change even one word — nay, one syllable — of Clause Four". And do you know what Mrs Brenda Nixon, the candidate for the SLP, says of the head of the Labour Party? She says, "I haven't an ounce of respect for Tony Blair".

It ain't cricket, cobber

Simon Barnes

toasts the whingeing Aussies

This is a one of those moments for feeling grateful to Australians. As the grim news of the bombings in Sri Lanka tempts us to despair, so the Australian cricketers cheer us with a comic sub-plot. This is nothing less than Shakespearean: the drunken porter, the gravediggers, the Australian cricketers. The single-mindedness with which each set of characters follows its own concerns, unaware of the priorities of a greater world, grants a welcome moment of relief to us all.

In Colombo, the death toll is horrific, the number of the wounded beyond easy comprehension, but the Aussies respond: what about our cricketers? The Australian Cricket Board goes into a huddle early next week for a good old grumble. They are considering forfeiting their World Cup match in Sri Lanka, which should take place on February 17.

That would mean donating the points to the opposition, and it's the sort of idea they want well ventilated; because they want the world to know that, well, it just isn't right. Compare and contrast with the Zimbabwean team manager, Denis Streak, on hearing the news of the bombings. Asked if his team would now consider withdrawing, he said: "We've thought about it. But we come from a country that knows about war and we're not going to worry about a few bombs."

The Australians reject any such blithe acceptance of life's turbulence. Life, after all, shouldn't be like it was in Colombo yesterday. How many times have I heard an Australian explain "It's not *fehhhh*"? This search for the Protean quality of fairness is something of a national characteristic, but in sport the gold of fairness becomes transmuted, by a sort of reverse alchemy, into the base metal of whingeing.

It was the Australians who first called the settlers from England whingeing Poms. It became accepted myth that Poms always complained and seldom washed. How can you tell that a 747 landing at Sydney is from London? It carries on whining after the jets have been switched off. But this eternal complaint about the Poms is itself a kind of whinge. And when one turns to sport and sets coherent thought aside, the scope for whingeing is unending — and Australians, it must be said, are masters...

Their cricketers are up to their necks in a scandal with Pakistan, in which they allege that Salim Malik, then Pakistani captain, tried to bribe them to lose a Test match. The Aussies now face death threats on their return to Pakistan.

Long before the Sri Lankan bombing, the Australian board said that any player who felt he would be in danger at the World Cup, which will be held all over the sub-continent, was free to withdraw without penalty.

Death threats, however, occupy the Australian mind only when they tear themselves away from the awkward right arm of Muttiah Muralitharan. Australian umpires believe that this Sri Lankan slow bowler gives extra zest to his leg-break by throwing the ball — which is illegal, of course. Yet legal or not, Muralitharan is hardly the world's most ferocious bowler. Bringing the might of cricket law to bear on the rather hapless young fellow is a sledgehammer and nut situation. But it's not *fehhhhh*, you see . . .

Meanwhile, David Campese, the Australian rugby player — a man touched by greatness — has been whingeing on about the England rugby team. Again. "English players can't make decisions when the pressure's on. Rob Andrew has gone, but nothing has changed." This crosses the boundary from rival-baiting to whingeing, especially when you recall that the last time England played Australia at rugby union, it was the quarter-final of the World Cup and England won — thanks to a last-minute drop goal from Rob Andrew.

Australian whingeing is an ancient tradition. The longest whinge in sporting history goes back to 1932-33, when Douglas Jardine captained England in Australia at cricket in what will be remembered forever as the Bodyline series. Today, even the most fastidious would not object to the bowling. Only two batsmen were injured in the entire series: that can happen in one day in a modern game.

But physical assault was not the real issue. The issue was planning, and the plan's accurate, professional execution. England sought to nullify the opposition's greatest weapon, the genius of Don Bradman. It was not the bowling of Harold Larwood that was vicious: it was the thinking of Jardine.

This signalled the end of sport as the world then knew it. Sport was no longer fun: not at the highest level. It was instead a fierce and terrible drama which stripped bare the nature of its participants. It destroyed some and gave others impossible glory. Sport became the most brutal examination of character.

Modern sport is often enthralling, often profoundly satisfying. But it is seldom much fun: not for the participants, anyway. It matters too much for that. So perhaps the Aussies were right to whinge — are right to carry on whingeing.

True whingeing is nostalgia for a world that never existed: a world when everything was fun and everything was fair. In every complaint, from the Colombo *cri de coeur* to the Campese rent-a-whinge, there is a yearning for a better world. Life shouldn't be like this, it's not *fehhhh*. And in the end, there is a kind of nobility in it.

Poor John

A SENSITIVE chap, John Major. The latest spate of poisonous stories about a new chasm between himself and his Chancellor has jangled a raw nerve.

On Wednesday, he invited a dozen MPs to lunch at Downing Street — trusted souls, mostly, although there were one or two licensed dissenters. And without a by-your-leave, he burst into a torrent of denial. He insisted that he and Kenneth Clarke stood four-square together (Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet come to mind) over Europe and the economy.

"It was extraordinary," says one of the lunchers. "Nobody was even suggesting there was anything in the stories. He just came out with it, got it off his chest."

The assembled audience clucked and nodded sagely as they listened to his bafflement and surprise at the appalling suggestions of a rift. But as they left they were in broad agreement — the PM doth protest too much.

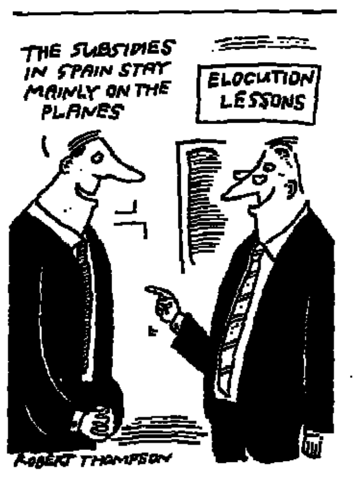
● *The Princess of Wales is still discussing the Queen's letter urging her to divorce. Perhaps she is stalling until after a two-day conference at the Park Lane Hotel next month before making a decision. One of the organisers is her solicitor, Mishcon de Reya. And the subject? "Big Money and International Divorce".*

Longueurs

THE GUEST of honour at the opening night of Simon Callow's interminable new play, *Les Enfants du Paradis*, was Patricia Quinn. Callow has dedicated the work to her late husband, Sir Robert Stephens.

Though delighted by the dedication, this put her in a tricky position — she had to sit through the entire four-hour work. "It's a very difficult play to stage," she says with tact. "There are 60 scenes in it. The real trouble is that it's a film, not a play."

Adrian Noble, the RSC's artistic director, admitted yesterday that Callow "could perhaps have cut it a bit more"; and even the star turn in the play, Joseph Fiennes (brother of Ralph), said the length of the play made for difficulties. "I think he could have been a bit more ruthless," he said. "It's a bit of a problem, the logistics of getting home after the show."


THE SUBSIDIES IN SPAIN STAY MAINLY ON THE PLAINS
ELOCUTION LESSONS
ROBERT THOMPSON

Vic and Bert

THE LATEST venue for romantic encounters in London is the Victoria and Albert Museum on Wednesday nights. Although the museum rejects any suggestion of a "singles' night", it is encouraging lonely hearts to dally in its vaults.

The museum reports that as a result of its Friends' evenings on Wednesdays, one couple are married and many others are courting. Now it has opened up evening romance to the general public.

Last Wednesday night, the place hummed with young bucks. Advertisements proclaiming the romantic potential have been running in the personal columns of *Time Out*, the London listings magazine. And a Valentine's Day seminar on kissing in art will add to the atmosphere. "It's a friendly atmosphere and people feel encouraged to talk to each other," explains the museum.

Heart attack

LADY ROMSEY, the elegant wife of Earl Mountbatten's grandson now identified as the "horsey" voice whinnying away for 17 minutes to the Duke of Edinburgh on his mobile phone, has a less than traditional taste in jewellery.

Her title and her fine hairband have not prevented her from acquiring the kind of personalised pendant which even Gerald Ratner might balk at. On a chain around her neck nestles a heart with the letters of her name, Penny, picked out on it — the female equivalent of a gold medallion on a hairy chest.

Penny: cheap at the price

The former Penny Eastwood was briefly linked romantically to Prince Charles in 1975, and he is known to have a penchant for jewellery incorporating names. Mary Spillane, the image expert from Colour Me Beautiful, is astonished: "It's a very adolescent thing to wear."

● *The Duke of Edinburgh is not the only person to have had trouble with his mobile phone. In a written answer in Hansard, Robin Squire, the junior Minister for Education and Employment, said that ministers had twice had mobile phones "cloned" by fraudsters. And each time the phone in question belonged to Robin Squire.*

High pitch

THE BEAUTIFUL shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been visited by many eminent Roman Catholics, but this summer it can expect three more in the substantial and tuneful form of the three tenors — all of whom are themselves Catholics.

Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras have agreed to sing there in July to mark the 15th anniversary of the first visions of the Virgin Mary. The concert, to be transmitted across the world by satellite, will tell the story of the shrine since 1981, when six children claimed that the Virgin Mary had appeared.

P·H·S

SPANISH MALPRACTICE

A bad decison for Iberia, Spain and Europe

The EU Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, was asked to rule this week on whether Spain should be allowed to break its promise to its partners and pump £440 million into its bloated national airline, Iberia. Presented with an opportunity to fight for a level runway for Europe's airlines, Mr Kinnock flinched and found excuses to let Spain bend the rules. Iberia, on its record of monumental incompetence and waste, does not deserve to survive under its present ownership. Since the Greek, Portuguese, Belgian and Irish airlines are queueing up for extra aid which they too promised they would not need, this decision is a grim precedent — as politically feeble as it is economically monstrous.

Those who defend the European Commission's "pragmatism" rest their case on two arguments: that Iberia has been given less money than it requested and on specific restrictive conditions which are held to mean that the proposed investment is identical to a private-sector decision. This is backed by another, unstated, argument which holds that the Commission, battered by recent unpopularity, should not force a high-profile nationalised company into sale or bankruptcy while every politician from Stockholm to Seville is urging action to bring down the continent's dole queues.

The Commission, which wields huge powers against monopolies and the abuse of government subsidies to private businesses, is making a grievous error. The EU treaty encourages the commissioners to balance legal, commercial and political factors in their state aid and competition decisions. But to grant most of Iberia's request is both against the treaty's spirit and against the interests of Europe's air travellers. Any prospect of lower fares fades yet further.

Nor does this week's decision in Brussels give any real help to the Iberia employees whose jobs have been "protected". Three-and-a-half-thousand of them will lose their jobs anyway during the next two years, and the remainder will have to wait even longer for the arrival of a disciplined and competitive management which can truly secure jobs by making the airline competitive in the global market. Meanwhile, the rest of the Spanish economy suffers from the diversion of capital by the Government into a plainly inefficient enterprise.

Last year British Airways made a profit of £301 million without state subsidy; Iberia made a pre-tax loss of £269 million. According to Mr Kinnock, the principle of phasing out airline subsidies should give way to the "market investor principle". This "principle", which has put down sturdy roots in European law, allows state aid to a company if the State is behaving as a private-sector investor would. But, if the Spanish Government's investment in Iberia were a sound bet, the state holding company would not need to be making it. The private-sector market would provide investors and the Government could withdraw. Iberia is a poor investment because it is too badly run to make money for its investors.

British Airways has already begun legal action against the Commission for its supine permission to the French government to put £2.3 billion into Air France, currently losing around £50 million a month. Given the Commission's once-firm determination not to waste any more money on Iberia, British Airways should have strong arguments to mount a parallel legal challenge. The Commission's collective feebleness in the face of Spanish blackmail also raises a wider point about its powers under the EU treaty. Powers to police state subsidies are among the strongest that the Commission has. Why should national governments grant it any increased powers at this year's review of the Maastricht treaty when existing powers are used in such an anti-European way?

DEGREE QUALITY

Fees may be the future, but not at a flat rate

University vice-chancellors meet today to decide if they should end Britain's tradition of free access to higher education. Support seems solid for a proposal to charge £300 as the price of a place at university. The proposal is crude but it has one merit: it focuses attention on the need for further reform in academia — to improve financing, defend standards and allow liberal learning to flourish in our finest institutions.

The flat-rate fee is a tactic adopted to bully the Government into reversing the spending constraints imposed on universities. Disappointed by a budget that cut higher education expenditure by 7 per cent, and envisaged a further 6 per cent cut in 1997-98, the vice-chancellors have counter-attacked. They hope the prospect of a hefty bill arriving at thousands of middle-class homes next September will be enough to force a government retreat.

The Government may hope that some of the vice-chancellors will prove fainthearts. Less prestigious universities may calculate that a levy will deter applicants and that any fall in admissions will mean large losses which an extra £300 from each remaining new student will not offset. The Government may also judge that even if the vice-chancellors hang together they cannot all rely on their own governing bodies for support. As any student of C. P. Snow knows, it is a rare head of an academic institution who is truly Master in his own House. The Education Secretary may refuse to bend, knowing that it will be in the interests of some universities to break. But relying on the willingness of weaker brethren to abandon the levy will not be enough.

The current funding troubles are only the most obvious symptom of a much deeper malaise. The Government has congratulated itself on a rapid expansion of student numbers — as though academic productivity were an end in itself. But the expansion seems to have been accompanied by a decline in standards and erosion of independence.

Universities have relaxed entrance requirements in order to accept ever more students, and extra income direct from the Government. There is little incentive to be selective: thus, even though entrance numbers increase, so too does the proportion of those dropping out. Worse still, there is worrying evidence that students now face far less stringent final examinations. As numbers overall have gone up, so too have the numbers of students who secure first-class degrees. The proportion of firsts has remained constant over the last four years despite a 65 per cent increase in undergraduate numbers. It seems, at best, curious that so many new students should reach a level once the preserve of a genuine elite.

Reversing the cuts might not make universities more choosy, simply more greedy. The most appropriate answer is matching the universities' power to select with a mechanism to make students more discriminating. Harsh Economics may determine student numbers, but Logic should not be neglected. Universities should be encouraged to contemplate top-up tuition fees, but rather than a flat rate these should reflect the quality of the qualification on offer. Of course students from poorer families should be exempt, and many institutions should survive without having to charge, but those from comfortable families should pay if they want excellence. That would remove the need for the better universities to expand needlessly and allow them to maintain their traditional methods of teaching in tutorials or seminars. Reform before the next election is unlikely, but if higher education is to combine the virtues of access and excellence, there must be open minds on entrance fees.

YOUNG MASTERS

Music comes early: painting must wait

An unknown self-portrait by Francis Bacon, painted when he was only 21, has just been found in a private collection of paintings. As Richard Cork writes on our Arts pages today, this is a significant discovery: Bacon was a fussy fellow, whose dislike of his own youthful work drove him to destroy much that he painted before his *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*.

A survivor from those massacres, the self-portrait ought to teach us a little about this tortured artist as a young man. But how much, on its own, can it teach us? As a picture, it is neither original nor attractive, but rather an awkward pastiche of the modes of its time. It has none of the "reek of human blood smiling out" — to use Bacon's own favourite line from Aeschylus — that one has come to associate with the painter's familiar *oeuvre*. If this self-portrait is typical of his earlier work, then the later Bacon is clearly finer art.

This should not surprise us. Painters, like most composers of music, novelists and judges, change with age. And they usually get better. Take Cézanne, a major exhibition of whose work begins next week at the Tate Gallery in London. His early work is dreary, dark and morbid, and unduly concerned with violence. As a painter he found his language only much later in life, with his technique of constructing volume out of brush strokes. Mondrian changed too — and radically — moving with time from sweet Dutch landscapes to brightly coloured grids and rectangles.

Very occasionally, painters get worse with age. André Derain is an example. A *fauve* — and close friend of Matisse in the latter's wildest phase — he was a Young Turk who turned out to be an old bore, ending his artistic days as a Neo-Classical reactionary. Such change in individual style is most easily discerned in art's modern era: for in the days of the Renaissance a young artist was often merely a copyist in the school of a master. A painter's early style declared itself only exceptionally, such as in Leonardo's angel in the painting by Verrocchio.

Painters take longer to mature than composers of music do: and there is more to this assertion than just the example of Mozart. The Viennese prodigy may have composed seven symphonies by the time he was 10 years old — and six operas by his fifteenth year, including *Mitridate* — but there are others too, including Mendelssohn, whose genius shone earlier than that of any serious painter. Francis Bacon took some while to blossom — if that is the right word to describe paintings such as his anguished, screaming Popes. In that, he was only of his artistic type. The best painters, like their counterparts in wine, mature only with age.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Judgment on a pay rise for MPs

From Mr Norris McWhirter

Sir, Twice before MPs have voted to more than double their salaries (letters and leading article, February 1). In 1954, after a 17-year standstill, they raised their basic pay from £600 to £1,250; while in 1964, after a nine-year standstill, they gave themselves a raise to £3,250. The taxpayer now, however, is presented with the spectre of a doubling from their 1995 raise.

The electorate of taxpayers and others ultimately dictate whether a parliamentary candidate receives any salary at all. It is entitled to recall how each MP has regarded his custodianship of our parliamentary, and hence national, sovereignty. We had long regarded the rule of law as dependent upon being governed by consent — ie, rule by an administration that could be sacked.

On May 20, 1993, our MPs collectively carried the third reading of the Maastricht Bill by 292 to 112. Why, now that they have given away the above rights to overseas institutions that are unsackable, should they expect to double their remuneration? They have diminished themselves to regional, off-shore councillors in a chamber which some of them plan will take on the ambience of a museum.

If there were any logic or justice, unless they have a change of heart and of spirit, they ought, as in the national crisis of 1931, to vote themselves a pay cut.

Yours faithfully,
NORRIS McWHIRTER (Chairman),
The Freedom Association,
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.
January 30.

From Lord Mayhew

Sir, I am not a hardship case, and am not complaining; but when I left the House of Commons in 1974, my index-linked pension, based on 27 years' service (including five years as a minister) in 1980, was £4,034 (payable from 1980). It is now £10,118.

I was astonished when MPs recently voted themselves pension increases for their service before 1983, but withheld the increase from former members who had served the same years and paid the same pensions contributions.

I think the less MPs have to do with their emoluments, the better.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW,
House of Lords.
January 31.

From Sir Laurie Magnus

Sir, Many people of quality decide to keep out of politics simply because it does not pay well enough. Prosperity for self and family, which can only be earned elsewhere, comes first.

Some will always say that public service should be more important than money. They echo predominantly Conservative thinkers of the 19th century who felt that MPs should not be paid at all.

But let us not lose the chance to attract greater quality into public life by restricting salaries. If any MP does not wish to accept a pay rise, he or she can always return it to the Paymaster General.

Yours faithfully,
LAURIE MAGNUS,
Flat 8, 44 Lower Sloane Street, SW1.
February 1.

From Mr Peter Le Cheminant

Sir, It is to be hoped that the implementation of any increase in the pay of MPs which results from the present clamour is deferred until after the next election. Otherwise the main impact will be to boost the pensions of the substantial number of present MPs who will not return to the House next time round.

Yours etc,
PETER Le CHEMINANT,
23 Weylea Avenue,
Burpham, Guildford, Surrey.
January 31.

From Dr P. J. Fabricius

Sir, The National Health Service has a ready precedent to solve the question of MPs' pay. A realistic salary should be set for those MPs who spend the whole of their time working for Parliament. Every MP should be required to declare in confidence all other sources of earned income.

Those who earn more than 10 per cent of their parliamentary salary from other sources should forfeit an appropriate proportion of the parliamentary salary, as do maximum part-time NHS consultants, despite being required still to devote "substantially the whole of their time" to the NHS.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir, your obedient servant,
P.J. FABRICIUS,
3 Rowhills Close, Farnham, Surrey.
January 31.

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, The view that many senior MPs, who should know better, put around that if you paid MPs twice as much you would get better MPs is, at the kindest, nonsense. The opposite in my view is the case: all you will end up with is many more young MPs who have done nothing with their lives except be professional.

Your obedient servant,
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK,
124 Lady Byron Lane,
Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.
February 1.

The need for a long-term solution to university funding

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Dons must do or die", January 31) hits the nail on the head.

In the last 50 years or so our universities have established a high reputation internationally and have generally provided a high-quality education. At last, people are realising that this reputation is under threat. Student numbers have increased dramatically whilst the unit of funding for teaching each student has been cut by 28 per cent over the last six years.

We cannot reverse this situation by merely tinkering with the funding system: it needs a totally fresh approach and a new financial mechanism. The only way to break through the present impasse is for students to pay a share of tuition costs.

Students should be supported by some kind of income-contingent loan scheme, the level and timespan of repayment being dependent on the level of earnings. Other measures would have to be taken to protect the less well off: the student might have a voucher provided by the State giving a basic sum of taxpayers' money, and would supplement this with a direct payment backed, perhaps, by a loan.

In this way more resources will be made available to improve the quality of service, the student can choose the university which most suits his interests and the resulting mechanism would free universities substantially from the present bureaucratic system of government funding.

Universities should then move to charging full-cost fees, the level of which will vary according to the nature and quality of the course. Centres of academic excellence in different fields will emerge and will charge higher fees. Demand will begin to be market-led.

Much may be learnt from our experiences at Buckingham. We are the only independent university in Britain with no direct taxpayers' support. Our fees reflect the costs of providing a high-quality service and personal attention. After 20 years of existence we are in a position to encourage other universities to secure greater independence and to pursue a new funding system for the next century.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Buckingham,
Buckingham MK18 1EG.
February 1.

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

Sir, The universities should go ahead with their proposed £300 "registration" or "quality maintenance" charge (report, January 30), but they would be well advised to describe it simply as a "fee" and to think of it as initiating a long-term strategy.

So long as the universities' move looks like a calculated pre-election political manoeuvre the Government is entitled to be irritated, and the necessary dialogue between it and the universities about this matter will not work as it should. (Incidentally, neither the universities nor the Government should over-estimate the electoral effects of what the universities are contemplating: the middle-class electorate is more realistic than either perhaps credits.)

The financial problem to which the proposed fee is a solution is a long-term one which will not go away with a change of government: the vice-chancellors should pay attention to what Labour is saying about taxes. Taxpayers simply cannot afford to give a university education to 30 per cent of our young people of the style which it provided for only 10 per cent of them little more than a decade ago.

To work as a long-term policy the private fee needs to be backed up by legislation to extend the student loans scheme to enable it to be used to advance money for fees. This is why the universities need to talk seriously to the Government, and the Government should listen.

Meanwhile those die-hards among the vice-chancellors who think that £300 a year will choke off demand from potential students should recall that the introduction of student loans coincided with an explosion of demand for higher education. There is also something odd about the idea that a university education might be worthless to a student at a price above £0. It might be asked, anyway, whether such a student would be sufficiently motivated to benefit from a university course.

Your etc,
ROBERT JACKSON,
House of Commons.
January 31.

From Professor Sir Graham Hills

Sir, The vice-chancellors may be unwise to settle for the stop-gap palliative of top-up fees before securing a better basis for their long-term security. At the heart of the matter is the lack of any serious consideration of the true costs and true benefits of higher education.

Who are the customers? Who are the beneficiaries? Should all the beneficiaries contribute to the cost? Is the Government a provider, a customer or a regulator?

Past inquiries have led to the conclusion that government and students are both customers, and that they need to negotiate economic prices with their suppliers, the universities. That is the way to common sense, a proper set of values, quality control, diversity, and an economic basis for extending the scope of higher education.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HILLS,
Sunnyside of Threepwood,
Laigh Threepwood, Beith, Ayrshire.
January 30.

Room for savings on back pain bill

From Professor Michael Rosen and Professor G. Waddell

Sir, Backache is a 20th-century health-care disaster and there is now a revolution in back care. Less than one in 500 (0.2 per cent) of back problems need surgery: even slipped discs usually get better without an operation.

As your excellent series of articles on "Beating back pain" (January 22 and 23) makes clear, doctors are beginning to accept that bed rest is bad. With simple measures to control the pain, and staying active, back pain will usually get better.

If more help is needed to control the pain, then the patient should see a physiotherapist, osteopath or chiropractor for manipulation.

However, some people do not get better and need more help. Time is then vital: once off work for six months, there is only a 50 per cent chance of returning to work. At present, patients may wait months for surgical consultations and high-tech investigations, only to be told that there is no surgical problem.

A report last year by the Clinical Standards Advisory Group (CSAG) recommended that resources should be shifted to primary care in order to provide early active management and rehabilitation. There is strong scientific evidence for such an approach, and the group's recommendations were supported by the Government, but little is being done to implement our report.

Backache is now costing the UK £6 billion a year; and there is potential for considerable savings. Most NHS services and treatment for back pain are no longer acceptable. There is an urgent need for action, in the form of education and pilot studies, to develop a more effective service.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL ROSEN
(Chairman, Clinical Standards Advisory Group),
GORDON WADDELL
(Orthopaedic surgeon: member, CSAG),
45 Hollybush Road, Cardiff.
January 29.

Haunting smell

From Mr Ron Smith

Sir, Mr B. J. Francis suggests (letter, January 17) that the ghostly smell identified by visitors to this house, which was once Julia Margaret Cameron's home, may somehow be associated with Julia's use of the chemicals for her photography. I myself am not of that opinion; several of us who have experienced the smell (report, January 9) describe it as similar to that of rotting herrings.

The smell only recurs when classical music is played. The ante-room where it occurs most strongly is adjacent to the large entrance foyer where Julia and her guests danced and enjoyed her soirees; it has red quarries on the floor and heavily plastered brick walls with no cracks.

The most recent recurrence was on February 11, 1995, when we were playing a tape of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. The smell arose shortly after the music started and lasted until a crew from a cable TV company arrived to do some filming about Julia and the freak happening. They had requested the music for background purposes and we were testing prior to their arrival.

We would dearly love a rational explanation. For the record, it is not the electric lampholders and not the drains.

Yours sincerely,
RON SMITH
(Chairman, Council of Management),
The Julia Margaret Cameron Trust,
Dimbola Lodge, Terrace Lane,
Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight.
January 24.

Wolves in the wild

From Mr Roger Panaman

Sir, As part of our project to reintroduce wolves to the Scottish Highlands, the Highland Wolf Fund, we often need to dispel the myth that wolves need forests ("Scotland's company of wolves", Weekend, January 27).

They live in all kinds of habitat except tropical rain forest and the most arid desert; they even live in the Arctic.

We do not need to wait for reforestation before we can restore wolves to the Highlands, but we do acknowledge that some people's negative perceptions must change.

Fortunately, a public reappraisal of wolves is slowly coming about as the result of research on wolf behaviour and ecology.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER PANAMAN,
Carnivore Wildlife Trust,
35 Church Street, Kidlington, Oxford.
January 30.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Pay as you view

From Mr S. R. Lancelyn Green

Sir, It's a deal! I will gladly pay £5 for each complete opera I watch on television if Mr Amos (letter, January 30; see also letters, January 27) will pay £5 for each snooker game he watches. That's fair isn't it?

My annual bill will be about £15 or up to £25 in a good year. I wonder what his will be?

Yours faithfully,
S. R. LANCELYN GREEN,
Poulton Hall,
Poulton Lancelyn,
Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside.
January 30.

From Miss Margaret Yates

Sir, I am very happy to pay £12 a month to Cable London, for its enterprising Performance channel offering a nightly selection of opera, ballet, classical music and jazz. As I can no longer afford opera house prices, even in the gods, and, like many other elderly people, no longer wish to go out at night, I consider it excellent value.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET YATES,
27 The Glade, Winchmore Hill, N21.
January 30.

Sports letters, page 37

Bishops' residences

From Mr William E. Bridge

Sir, The letter from the Bishop of Exeter (January 30; see also letters, January 18) highlights the terrible waste that such expensive episcopal residences represent.

Like any other diocese Exeter must have many underused church buildings and halls which would be quite suitable for the business, entertainment and hospitality that he outlined.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM E. BRIDGE,
175 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent.

Lottery and charities

From Mr Robert Ashby

Sir, In addition to lottery grants for which charities must apply (letters, January 19, 29), perhaps Camelot should hold an Ernie-style weekly draw of a charity registration number? The winning charity might be awarded £10,000 to its core fund, taken from Camelot's profit.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ASHBY
(Executive director),
British Humanist Association,
47 Theobald's Road, WC1.

Here today . . .

From Mr Winston Graham

Sir, Last Friday, January 26, a "snow shower" lasting seven hours, dumped at least six inches of snow on this area of Sussex. Temperature at the time was 25F. Saturday (temp 27F max), in spite of more light snow early, the snow began to go. By Sunday at 2pm (temp 32F max) it was almost gone. No dripping from the roofs; minimal rise of level in greenhouse water butt; wind cold but not sufficient to blow snow away.

So somehow the snow did not melt; it evaporated. How?

Yours etc,
WINSTON GRAHAM,
Abbotswood House,
Buxted, East Sussex.
February 1.

Calling all agents

From Mr Noël Johnson

Sir, I note with interest the item in today's issue about the revival of *Dick Barton, Special Agent* and the announcement of some casting.

It would have been courteous if the BBC had at least given me first refusal of the part.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
NOËL JOHNSON,
(The original Dick Barton Special Agent, 1946-49),
4 Britway Court, Britway Road,
Dinas Powys, South Glamorgan.
January 29.

Lost in translation?

From Dr Robert M. Bruce-Chwatt

Sir, The caption to the portrait on your back page today of a "cow" marooned by flash floods in southern France appears to be bull.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRUCE-CHWATT,
York Lodge,
1 York Road, Richmond, Surrey.
January 31.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
February 1: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Somerleyton (Master of the Horse) at the Memorial Service for the Viscount Boyne (Lord in Waiting and Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire) which was held in St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, this afternoon.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Major Nicholas Barne.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Andrew Palmer.

Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by Mrs Peter Afia.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 1: The Princess Royal this morning departed Sea Lion Island for Fox Bay East where Her Royal Highness attended a Smoko in the Community Centre with West Falkland residents.

The Princess Royal afterwards departed Fox Bay for Hill Cove and attended a Luncheon with other West Falkland residents.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Port Howard and attended a Smoko at Port Howard Social Club with the community.

The Princess Royal this evening attended the Falkland Island Government Reception at the Town Hall, Stanley, followed by a Legislature Dinner at Malvina House Hotel.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 1: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Wales, received Lieutenant Colonel Peter Davies upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Aitken upon assuming the appointment.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 1: The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Lung Foundation, this evening attended a Gala Performance of *La Bohème* at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

YORK HOUSE
February 1: The Duke of Kent, President, this evening attended the Engineering Council's Unification Launch dinner, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr Michael Jephson to be a Serjeant-at-Arms to Her Majesty in succession to Mr David Walker.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Philip Hughes, left, the new chairman of the trustees of the National Gallery, with Raymond Seitz, former American Ambassador to Britain, who has just become a trustee. They are standing in front of one of Paolo Uccello's large-scale panel decorations depicting *The Battle of San Romano* (1454-57)

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Kent, as president, will attend the Engineering Council forum at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at 10.00.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for February was won with bond number 34LS 818724. The winner, who lives in Co Antrim, has a holding of £5,000.

Luncheon

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Mr Shimon Peres, Prime Minister of Israel.

Reception

HM Government
Mr John M. Taylor, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, was the host yesterday at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House to mark the 20th anniversary of the National Exhibition Centre.

Birthdays today

Mr Roger Brooke, chairman, Candover Investments, 65; Mr Ken Bruce, broadcaster, 45; Sir Gordon Bryce, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 83; the Earl of Clarendon, 63; Dr Macdonald Critchley, neurologist, 96; Mr Andrew Davis, conductor, 52; the Rev Dr Victor de Waal, former Dean of Canterbury, 67; Sir Robert Douglas, founder Douglas Group of Companies, 97; Lord Eatwell, 51; Mr Abba Eban, Israeli politician, 81; Dr Tony Flower, economist, 45; Sir Norman Fowler, MP, 58; M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former President of France, 70; Mr Hughie Green, broadcaster, 76; Mr H.V. Hughes, former Principal, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 70; Mr David Jason, actor, 56; Mr David Jones, chief executive, Next, 53; Sir Chips Keswick, chairman, Hambros Bank, 56; Dame Alix Meynell, former civil servant, 93; Miss Elaine Stritch, actress, 69.

Royal Warrant Holders

Colonel Christopher Pickup has been appointed Secretary of the Royal Warrant Holders Association in succession to Commander Hugh Faulkner who has retired.

Appointment

Mr Jim McCulloch has been appointed Ambassador to Iceland from mid-May in succession to Mr Michael Hone who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Dinners

Fruiterers' Company
Mr M.J. Tanguy, Master of the Fruiterers' Company, assisted by the Wardens, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Plaisterer's Hall. During the evening he presented the Ridley Silver Medal to Dr J.D. Quinlan for distinguished services to fruit growing. Sir Graham Dorey, Bailiff of Guernsey, Lord Justice Staughton and Mr D.G. Hope-Mason also spoke.

Constructors' Company
Mr Anthony Appleton, Master of the Constructors' Company, presented the David Tong award to Mr John Leighton-Cox at the annual dinner held last night at Painters' Hall. The Forces Link Cup was presented to Major-General Edward Willmott, Honorary Colonel of the 101 Regiment. Dr Christopher Sketchley also spoke.

The Fruiterers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Fruiterers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master: Mr M J Tanguy. Upper Warden: Mr D Tullett, and Renter Warden: Mr A E Redsell.

Latest wills

Mr John Greville **Brunton**, of Nunthorpe, Cleveland, left estate valued at £5,502,009 net.

He left a number of bequests, including real property and life interests in £150,000 and half the residue of his estate to personal legatees, and the remainder of his estate to the Jack Brunton Charitable Trust.

Mr John Frederik **Procope**, of Cambridge, classical scholar and author, left estate valued at £1,014,057 net.

Mr Arthur Sidney **Thorn**, of London SW17, left estate valued at £1,353,387 net.

He left £65,000 to personal legatees, £25,000 to St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley, £20,000 to the RNLI and the residue to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Mr John Raymond **Bargetto**, of East Finchley, London N2, left estate valued at £3,119,397 net.

He left £525,000 and certain properties in London N11 to personal legatees and the residue to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Sir Frederick William **Delve**, of Hove, East Sussex, former Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, left estate valued at £854,231 net.

He left £1,000 each to the British Deaf Association and Salvation Army, £500 each to the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund, London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association, British Heart Foundation and Multiple Sclerosis Society, and £300 each to 16 other charities.

Mrs Margaret Laetitia **Gifford**, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, for 20 years manager of the cinema at Aldeburgh, left estate valued at £631,875 net.

Mr James Lawson **Richards**, of Holt Heath, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £3,749,175 net.

Professor Albert **Goodwin**, of Yeovil, Somerset, Professor of Modern History at the University of Manchester, 1953-69, left estate valued at £97,163 net.

Ivy Mary **MacFie**, of Ely, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £1,322,588 net.

She left her effects and such money as can be transferred on her death without incurring inheritance tax to her nephew Robert P. Starling, other personal legacies totally £36,700, £10,000 each to the British Red Cross Society, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research Campaign, RNIB, Arthritis and Rheumatism Council and British Sailors Society; £8,000 each to St Leonard's Church, Little Downham, and All Saints' Church, St Ives, £500 to St Ives Golf Club, and the residue to her trustees for charities in England and Wales.

Recent estates include (net, before tax):

The Hon Daphne Angela **Brazier-Creagh**, of Winchester .. £1,441,282

Mr John George **Walpole**, of South Elmham St Margaret, Suffolk £1,410,605

Memorial services

Viscount Boyne
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lord Somerleyton at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Viscount Boyne held yesterday at St Laurence's, Ludlow, Shropshire.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Major Nicholas Barne, the Duke of Kent by Mr Andrew Palmer and Princess Alexandra by Mrs Peter Afia.

The Rev Dr Brian Curnew and the Bishop of Ludlow officiated. The Rev David Good, the Archdeacon of Salop and Mr Simon Kenyon-Slaney, representing St John Ambulance, read the prayers.

Viscount Boyne, son, the Hon Mrs Caroline Banks, daughter, Georgina Banks, granddaughter, and Mr Richard Hamilton-Russell read the lessons. Sir Peter Gadsden gave an address. The Bishop of Hereford pronounced the blessing.

The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr Alan Barnish, Clerk of the Shropshire Lieutenancy and Chief Executive of Shropshire County Council. Among others present were:

Rosemary Viscountess Boyne (widow), Mr and the Hon Mrs Simon Sherwood (son-in-law and daughter), Viscountess Boyne (daughter-in-law), Lord and Lady Cobbold, Mr and Mrs Charles Worthington, Mrs John Stucley, Major R Cotterell, Colonel and Mrs James Hamilton-Russell, Miss Julia Hamilton-Russell, Colonel and Mrs Brian Hamilton-Russell, Mrs Richard Hamilton-Russell, Miss Rowena Jones, the Hon Jonathan Forbes, the Hon Mrs Foster, Mr Michael Foster, Colonel and Mrs John Flint, Mr Charles Flint, Mr Michael Flint, Major and Mrs John Sutton, Mr and Mrs John Matthews the many other friends and representatives of organisations connected with Viscount Boyne.

Mr John Rogers
A memorial service for Mr John Rogers, farmer and landowner, was held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Christopher Courtauld officiated and the Rev Philip Pennant led the prayers. Mr Edward Rogers and Mr Daniel Rogers, sons, read the lessons, and Colonel Peter Rogers, brother, gave an address. Among those present were:

Mrs Rogers (widow), Mrs David Rogers (mother), Mrs Uarda Bewsher (grand-mother), Mr and Mrs Charles Rogers (brother), Lady Brassey (mother-in-law), Mr and Mrs Anthony Brassey, Mr and Mrs Kim Brassey, Mr and Mrs John Moorehead and other members of family and friends.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nell Gwyn, actress and mistress of King Charles II, Hereford, 1650; Sir Joseph Banks, naturalist, London, 1743; Hannah More, evangelist and educator, Fishponds, Bristol, 1745; Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, statesman, Périgord, France, 1754; Henry Havelock Ellis, physician and writer, Croydon, London, 1859; Fritz Kreisler, violinist, Vienna, 1875; James Joyce, novelist, Dublin, 1882; James Stephens, poet and novelist, Dublin, 1882; Jascha Heifetz, violinist, Vilna, 1901.

DEATHS: Baldasarre Castiglione, diplomat and writer, Toledo, 1529; Giovanni Palestrina, composer, Rome, 1594; Francis Hayman, painter, London, 1776; Dmitri Mendeleyev, chemist, St Petersburg, 1907; John L. Sullivan, bare knuckle fighter, Abington, Massachusetts, 1918; Sir Owen Seaman, Editor of *Punch* 1906-32, London, 1936; the Rev James Owen Hannay (George Birmingham), novelist, London, 1950; Buddy Holly, singer and songwriter, died in an air crash, near Mason City, Iowa, 1959; Bertrand Russell, 3rd Earl Russell, mathematician and philosopher, Plas Penrhyn, Merionethshire, 1970; George Whipple, pathologist, Nobel laureate 1934, New York, 1976.

Ireland was represented in the British Parliament for the first time, 1801.

Greece declared war on Turkey, 1878.

The state funeral of Queen Victoria, 1901.

Major-General Idi Amin declared himself the absolute ruler of Uganda, 1971.

The British Embassy in Dublin was besieged and burnt down, 1972.

Legal appointment

Mr Austen Bruno Issard-Davies to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Church news

Archdeacon of Tonbridge
Canon Judith Rose, Acting Archdeacon of Tonbridge, diocese Rochester, is to be Archdeacon of Tonbridge, succeeding the Ven Richard Mason who has retired.

Appointments
The Rev Laurence Blaney, Rector, Pitsea, St Gabriel: to be Priest-in-charge, Mayland St Barnabas w Steeple St Lawrence and All Saints (Chelmsford).

The Rev Paul Burridge-Butler, Curate, Handsworth Woodhouse (Sheffield): to be Vicar, St Dunstan, Bellingham (Southwark).

The Rev Christopher Byers, Team Rector, Thamesmead Team Ministry (Southwark): to be also an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral.

The Rev Peter Clark, Vicar, Christ Church and St Stephen, Battersea and Rural Dean of Battersea (Southwark): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral.

The Rev Gwyn Clement, Assistant Curate, St James and St John, Friern Barnet: to be Vicar, St Alphege, Hertford Road, Edmonton (London).

The Rev Leslie Collinson, Curate, Corleston St Andrew (Norwich): to be Team Vicar, Banbury Team Ministry (Oxford).

The Rev Gary Colville, Priest-in-charge, Foots Cray: to be Rector, Foots Cray (Rochester).

The Rev John Day, Vicar, St Margaret, Thornbury (Bradford): to be Vicar, St Mary, Whitkirk (Ripon).

The Rev Stephen Edwards: to be Chaplain of HM Prison, Maidstone (Canterbury).

The Rev John Ewington, Vicar, St Saviour, Southend on Sea (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, Northam Team Ministry (Exeter).

The Rev Clare Garrett, Curate, Ewyas Harold Team Ministry: to be Curate, Tupsley (Hereford).

The Rev Marion Goddard, Acting Assistant Chaplain, Greenwich District Hospital: to be Team Vicar, William Temple Church, Thamesmead Team Ministry (Southwark).

The Rev Christopher Green, Head of Religious Studies, RNIB New College, Worcester: to be Vicar, All Saints, Clipstone (Southwell).

The Rev Janet Hulett: to be Deacon (NSM), Thame w Towersey (Oxford).

The Rev Dr Jonathan Trigg, Vicar, St Thomas, Oakwood: to be Vicar St Michael, Highgate (London).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Bagge Hansen and Miss A.J. Dampney
The engagement is announced between Jacob, elder son of Mr and Mrs Torben Bagge Hansen, of Haderslev, Denmark, and Alexandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Theo Dampney, of Hurn, Christchurch.

Mr G.S. Banner and Miss E.L. Heaton
The engagement is announced between Gregory, son of Mr and Mrs John Banner, of Orpington, Kent, and Elisabeth, elder daughter of Mr Bernard Heaton, of Mersea Island, Essex, and Mrs Margaret Benham, of Newbury, Berkshire, and stepdaughter of Mr John Benham.

Mr W.N. Barton and Miss S.M. Prew
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of Mr and Mrs Jack Barton, of Bramshott, Hampshire, and Susan, daughter of the late Mr Edward Prew and of Mrs Mary Prew, of Ilminster, Somerset.

Mr N.P.W. Boot and Miss M. Pett
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs John Boot, of Woodthorpe, Nottingham, and Melanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Melvyn Pett, of Crawley Down, West Sussex.

Mr J.T. Burdett and Miss K.G. Jackson
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Burdett, of Stoughton, West Sussex, and Kate, only daughter of Mrs Robert Smits, of Fulham, London.

The Hon F.W. Campbell and Miss K.J.M. Barrett
The engagement is announced between Fred, younger son of Hugh, the late Thane of Cawdor, and of Cathryn, Countess Cawdor, and Katherine, third daughter of Mr Richard Barrett, of Dallas, Texas, and Mrs Jennifer Barrett, of Fulham, London.

Mr R.C. Crossing and Miss L.M. Kennedy
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs William Crossing, of Orange, New South Wales, Australia, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Kennedy, of Claygate, Surrey.

Lieutenant Commander S. Curtis, USNR, and Miss C. Dent
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mrs J. Eaker, of New Hampshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Evelyn Dent, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Deckker and Miss A.J. Barker-Davies
The engagement is announced between Sebastian John, son of the late Dr Basil Deckker and of Mrs Joan Deckker, of South Kensington, London, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr Clive Barker-Davies, of Paris, France, and of Mrs Colin Bothway, of Colton, Norfolk.

Mr D.R. Dimbleby and Miss C.L. Simmonds
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby, of Bath, Avon, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Simmonds, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire.

Mr C.P.R. DuBuisson and Mlle F.E. Bachy
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Peter DuBuisson, of Bramley, Surrey, and France Eleonore, daughter of M and Mme Pierre Bachy, of St Leu la Foret, France.

Mr J.D. Farr and Miss J.H. Gardner
The engagement is announced between Julian David, son of Mr and Mrs D.F.G. Farr, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Jane Helen, daughter of Tony and Mary Gardner, of Ulverston, Cumbria.

Mr P.H. Dennis and Miss C.L. Abbot-Anderson
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of the Right Rev John and Mrs Dennis, of Ipswich, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr Allan Abbot-Anderson, of Gartocharn, Dunbartonshire, and of Mrs Anthony Douglas Jenkins, of Stoughton, Sussex.

Mr A.H. George and Miss C.L.D. Newcombe
The engagement is announced between Alexander, only son of Mr and Mrs Julian George, of East Grafton, Wiltshire, and Camilla, second daughter of Dr and Mrs Raymond Newcombe, of Canberra, Australia.

Mr J.R. Goldman and Miss S.A. Baxter
The engagement is announced between James, second son of Mr Tony Goldman, CB, and Mrs Anne Goldman, of Godalming, Surrey, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Baxter, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr R.A. Johnson and Miss K. Huggins
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Johnson, of Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, and Karen, elder daughter of Mr Martin Huggins and Mrs Astrid Ritchie, of Edinburgh.

Mr S.A. Leslie and Miss P.R. Furlonger
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Rolland, of Hawick, Roxburghshire, and Pippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Furlonger, of Heddon on the Wall, Northumberland.

Lieutenant Colonel A.J. Loudon and Mrs R.F.K. Jansen
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Colonel Angus Loudon, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, younger son of the late Mr George Loudon, of Lanark, and of Mrs Evelyn Loudon, of Edinburgh, and Rachel, elder daughter of Major General and Mrs Andrew Whitehead, of Kinross-shire.

Mr C.J. McPherson and Miss S.J. Downton
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.J. McPherson, of Meare, Somerset, and Samantha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.P.J. Downton, of Wincanton, Somerset.

Captain D.R.Y. Mason and Miss L.J. Egar
The engagement is announced between Captain David Mason, Royal Artillery, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.D.A.Y. Mason, of Market Weighton, Yorkshire, and Lucinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.E. Egar, of Ackleton, Shropshire.

Major D.G. Newbury, retd, and Miss P.A. Mount
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Grant Newbury, of Penn, Buckinghamshire, and Penelope, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Mount, of Snowshill, Gloucestershire.

Mr G.T.D. Norman and Miss V. Burrows
The engagement is announced between Guy, son of the late Mr Anthony Norman and of Mrs Tessa Forrest, formerly of Sevenoaks, and stepson of Mr Barclay Forrest, of Duns, Berwickshire, and Vanessa, eldest daughter of Mr Brian Burrows, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and Mrs Brendan McInerney, of Belgravia, London.

Mr R.J. Turnill and Miss S.E. Walthew
The engagement is announced between Roly, son of the late Colonel Edwin Turnill and of Mrs Adelaide Turnill, of Brampton, Cambridgeshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr Robert Walthew and Mrs Elizabeth Walthew, of Felsted, Essex.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

It is your own wickedness that will punish you, your own apostasy that will condemn you. See for yourselves how bitter a thing it is and how evil, to reject the Lord your God, to hold me in dread no longer.
Jeremiah 2 : 19 (REB)

BIRTHS

ABU JABER - On January 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Alice (née Poole) and Hasan, a daughter, Alicia Jeltje Soraya, a little sister for Leila.

BURFOOT - On 26th January, to Sue and Graham, a daughter, Eleanor Mary.

GLANVILL - On 31st January, at Banbury, to Amanda (née Howe) and Stephen, a daughter, Emma Louise Rosamund, a sister for Jamie.

HUGHES - On January 30th 1996 in Devonshire on the Dart at Holne, to Philippa (née Smallthwaite) and Sebastian, a son, Henry Arthur Kelvin.

HUME-KENDALL - On January 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Helen (née Baker) and Simon, a son, Sam, a brother for Henry.

LOOMES DAVIES - To Steve and Dianne the safe and punctual arrival of a son Kit Lawrance, brother to Gemma, at 11.40 am 31st January 1996 at St Mary's, Melton Mowbray. Thanks to all concerned.

SMELLIE - On January 27th 1996, to Sophie (née Johnston) and Tom, a daughter, Olivia Caroline Mary.

SMITH - On February 1st at Doncaster, Yorkshire, to Elizabeth (née Buckley) and Richard, a beautiful daughter, Alsinn Hannah, a sister for Siobhan.

TYREMAN - On January 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Toohey) and Magnus, a son, Jack Alexander.

WARD - On January 27th, to Fiona (née Barras) and Timothy, a son, Thomas James, a brother for Charles.

DEATHS

AGRELL - Stuart Olof, peacefully on 29th January in his 82nd year. Dearly loved father of Peter, Michael and Benjamin. Cremation at Cambridge City Crematorium (East Chapel) at 11.45 am on Friday 9th February. Flowers or donations to either Help the Aged or The Stroke Association to H.J. Paintin Ltd., 43 High Street, Linton, Cambridge, CB1 6HS. (Tel: 01223-891226).

ARTHURE - Humphrey George Edgar Arthure C.B.E., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., passed peacefully to rest in Cambridge on 29th January 1996, aged 90 years after a short illness. Devoted husband of the late Dickie and dear father to Frances and Richard. Missed dearly by all his family. Funeral Service at St Giles Church, Cambridge, on Tuesday 6th February at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations to Charing Cross Hospital, London.

BEVAN - Denis George, Lt. Commander R.N. (retired), died suddenly on January 30th at Marford, Wrexham, aged 82. Beloved husband of Sarah and dear father of Diane and Robin and treasured grandfather.

BUNDOCK - Frank Noel peacefully passed away on Saturday 27th January in Rottingdean, aged 92. 'Bunny', formerly of Chigwell, Essex and Puerto Andraitx, Mallorca, greatly loved by all, will be sorely missed. Service at Woodvale Crematorium, Lewes Road, Brighton on Monday, February 5th at 12 noon.

CARSON - (née Jones). On January 31st 1996, Margaret Avis (Betty), peacefully in Bakewell. Wife of the late James Carson M.D., F.R.C.P., a dear mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Anne's Church, Beeley on Friday, February 9th at 11 am prior to cremation at Chesterfield. Family flowers, donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, c/o J.W. & J. Mettam Ltd., Mill Street, Bakewell DE45 1DX.

FRASER - Suddenly on 29th January in Oxford, Caroline Mary, beloved daughter of Sir Angus Fraser and Mrs Margaret Hemmings, and much loved sister of Simon. Funeral Service will be held at St Michael's Church, Highgate, N6, at 11.30 am on Friday 9th February, followed by committal at Highgate Cemetery. Flowers if desired and enquiries to Leverton & Sons Ltd., 1 Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, N2 9HG, tel: (0181) 444-5753.

FRASER - (née Henderson) Elizabeth Jane, on January 29th 1996. Widow of Bill, mother of Susan and Nigel and much loved grandmother. Funeral service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 7th February at 3 pm.

HART - Janet (Jan) née Fyvie, Caroline Terrace, London SW1. After a long illness died peacefully on 29th January 1996. Funeral Service on Tuesday 6th February at Putney Vale Crematorium at 2.45 pm (not as previously stated). Floral tributes please to Ernest Larner & Son, Funeral Directors, 246 Upper Richmond Road, Putney by 12 noon.

HOLDSWORTH - Michael on 30th January, dearly beloved husband of Betty and much loved by his sons Jeremy, Richard, Timothy and Nicholas and by his daughters-in-law and grandchildren. Private cremation at 3 pm Tuesday 6th February at Chelmsford Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the R.S.P.B. or the Royal Horticultural Society may be sent to M. Lucking & Son, 196 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AE.

LAVELLE - On 29th January 1996, Suzanne Mai (Pip) aged 80. Widow of Alec, much loved by her sons Richard and John, daughters-in-law and 7 grandchildren. President of The Shropshire Branch of the RSPCA. Funeral at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Tuesday 13th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only. At her request donations to "The Pip Lavelle Shropshire Sanctuary Appeal", Lloyds Bank, Shrewsbury SY1 1DG.

LEVY - Alix Cordelia, daughter of the late Sir Maurice Levy Bt. and Lady Levy of Leicestershire, died peacefully at Harrogate District Hospital on 31st January 1996. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Donkey Sanctuary c/o Swainson's, 39 Franklin Road, Harrogate, HG1 5ED.

MADDEN - Richard Wyndham. Killed in action on Sunday 28th January in Bosnia. Beloved son of Brian and Sellis, greatly loved brother of Bella, Susannah and David. Funeral Service at Sherborne Abbey on Thursday 8th February at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations to Army Charities c/o The Light Dragoons Charitable Trust, Home Headquarters, The Light Dragoons, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Remembering also Trooper John Kelly and Trooper Andrew Ovington. "Grieve not that they have died, but rejoice that they have lived".

OWEN - On January 31st, Shelagh Myrle Owen, widow of Rowland Hubert Owen, CMG, aged 81. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Tuesday, February 6th, at 3pm. Donations to the British Heart Foundation are invited. Enquiries to Luff's, tel: (01428) 643824.

PENNY - On January 29th Dr. Richard William (Dick) FRCP peacefully at home having suffered from cancer, but at a time of his choosing and following the death of his wife Gillian Maria (Jill) after a long battle against illness. Cremation private but, by request, donations in lieu of flowers to St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham. Memorial Service on 1st March at Dulwich College Chapel at 4pm. All are welcome. No mourning colours please.

PRITCHARD - Erika Helene, peacefully at Whitstable & Tankerton Hospital Thursday 1st February 1996. Much loved, mourned and missed by Guy, Martin and Sandra. Cremation at Charing Crematorium Thursday 8th February 1996 at 11.20 am. No flowers please. Donations to Friends of Whitstable & Tankerton Hospital c/o C.W. Lyons & Son, 53 Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DB.

ROWE - On 1st February Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Henry Kingsley Rowe D.S.O., late Royal Tank Regiment and formerly of Winfrith House. Most beloved husband of Angela and loving father of Susan and Henry and his grandchildren Charles, Louise and Serena. Funeral at St Christopher's Church, Winfrith Newburgh, on 15th February at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to R.T.R. Benevolent Fund, Bovington Camp, Dorset.

RUSSELL-COBB - On 31st January, peacefully in London, Trevor, father of Rupert, Theresa, Piers and Fabian and dear friend of Fionn Morgan. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium (East Chapel) on Wednesday 7th February at 11.15 am. Flowers please by 9.45 am or donations for Trinity Hospice to Kenyons, 74 Rochester Row, SW1. (0171) 834-4624.

SHIER - On 31st January peacefully in hospital in her 98th year, Mabel, widow of Arthur Stanley and loved mother of Peter, Barbara and Roger. Funeral will take place on Thursday 8th February at 2 pm at St John's Wood Parish Church, followed by committal at St Marylebone Crematorium at 3 pm. Flowers may be sent to Leverton & Sons Ltd., 212 Eversholt Street, NW1 1BD.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LEVETT - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Howard (Hopper) Levett will be held in Canterbury Cathedral on Monday 18th March at 3 pm.

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 905509

200 YEARS old. A Times of 1796. Antique Newspapers Tel 01481 712960 Fax 725168

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PIANOS. Discounts on new B/H & digital. Youngchang, Weber & Yamaha. Clavinova main dealer. Rental/ Purchase option. Free catalogue. The Piano Workshop, 30 Highgate Rd, London, NW5. 0171 267 7671 & 111 Ewell Rd, Surbiton, Surrey 0181 399 4110

THE ALTERNATIVE PIANO SALE!
Choose from 100's of new & secondhand Upright, Grand & Digital pianos. You can even hire one from only £20 per month with an option to buy later.
MARKSON PIANOS
Established 1910
0171 935 8682 (NW1)
0181 854 4517 (SE18)

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED

MATERNITY nurse with experience is wanted by Swiss family in Geneva for new born, from end Feb to end May. Send CV with photograph to: PO Box 3806 CH 1211 Geneva 3, Switzerland

TRAINED, professional live-in butler/valet/chef required for gentlemans residences, mainly in London. CV with exceptional references need only apply. Please Reply to Box No 3374.

VALET, 39, seeks London based post. Domestic/diplomatic experience. Tel: 0685 081945

FLATSHARE

CLAPHAM Young female professional required to share house, all mod cons. £325 pcm excl. 0171 627 8226. Claire.

CLAPHAM Sth. Huge lux bed in lge hse. Mins to Tube & Common. Shrd bath, recep, kit, gdn. £450 pcm incl. 0181 675 4274.

EALING - Dble room avail in comfortable 2 bed flat. 10 mins tube, close A4. Suit prof male. £280 pcm. Tel: 0181 847 5819 (Even W/end)

FLATMATES London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat sharing service. 0171-589 5491

LUX S.W.1. 1st fl.gdn sq Mon-Fri [illegible] Huge rm with phone Cleaner £95 inc. 630 6257.

STREATHAM HILL Prof. p. to shr lge fl. own dbl rm, 5 mins BR. £280pcm. 0181 769 1182.

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE
When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS
5 NATIONS RUGBY
ERIC CLAPTON,
SIMPLY RED,
TINA TURNER,
BON JOVI
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
RIVERDANCE
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
PHANTOM, SUNSET
ALL POP, THEATRE & SPORTING EVENTS
TEL: 0171 323 4480
Gt Portland Associates

ALL TICKETS
5 Nations Rugby 96
All matches available
Bruce Springsteen, Clapton
River Dance, Royal Ascot
Phantom, Sunset etc.
We obtain the unobtainable
0171 403 5555
All CC's, Free Delivery

TICKETS
(Bought & Sold)
Rugby 5 Nations
Phantom, Riverdance
Oliver, Saigon, Etc,
T. Turner, Simply Red,
E. Clapton, Bon Jovi,
Any Ticket obtained.
0171 488-4414

ACCESS TICKETS
Specialists in
SOLD OUT EVENTS
5 Nations Rugby
Bruce Springsteen,
Eric Clapton
and all major pop shows.
All theatre tickets
inc Phantom etc.
Call us Now!
Tel: 0171 831 6616

ALL AVAIL. Phantom, Sunset, Saigon, Oliver, Stones, Rod S, E Clapton, Sport 071 497 1407

ALL AVAIL: Phantom, all theatre. S. Red. B. Springsteen. Rugby, all sport 0171 480 6165

ALL TICKETS Rugby. Eng v Wales, Eng v Ireland, Springsteen, Clapton. All concerts. Phantom etc & Sold Out events 0171 930 3895 F: 3894

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL TICKETS: Int. Rugby, Phantom, R.dance, Clapton, Simply Red, All major pop, sport & theatre. CC's accpt 0171 925 0065

ALL TICKETS. Clapton, Rugby Intern, theatre, sports, concerts world wide tel: 0171 839 5363

CHELTENHAM GOLD Cup. Excellent box available for Gold Cup on 14th March with separate dining room and balcony overlooking paddock - £10,000 ono (excluding catering) Contact Box No 3407

5 NATIONS Rugby 96' Tickets Wanted for all matches Tel: 0171 929 5622/ F: 929 5485

FOR SALE

BROADWOOD 6 ft grand piano, ebony, 1920, very good condition £900. Tel: 0181 9430496.

THE TIMES - 1791-1996 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also "Sundays". Remember When. 0181-688 6323.

RENTALS

FW GAPP (Management Services) Ltd Require properties in central, south & west London areas for waiting applicants. Tel: 0171 243 0964.

HOLLAND PARK. Period 2 bed, 2 bath flat, newly dec & furn, spacious, close tube f/f kit. £435pw 0171 379 4816.

KENSINGTON. Lux 1 bed flat, garden sq, clse tube, f/f & equip. £260pw. Drury 0171 379 4816

MAYFAIR 2 bed lux F/F Apartment £275pw. St. James 1 bed £260pw. 0171 305 1185.

NOTTINGHILL. Lux 2 bed, 2 bath flat f.kit. porter, clse tube £355pw 0171 379 4816.

PORTMAN SQUARE W1 lux bright studio, shower, all inc £130 pw Tel: 0181 346 1048.

POWIS GARDENS, W11. Very spacious split level one bedroom apartment. 2 gardens, conservatory. Modern aspect. £330pw. Tel 0171 243 2624.

SERVICES

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01562 718909.

SITUATIONS WANTED

FREELANCE SHORTHAND/ WP Secretary Sales/Marketing background. Seeks long/short term work. US green card. Will travel. Tel: 0181 429 1229.

SPECIALISTS

YOU should write a book. You can't? Then commission one. Hannah Renier 0171 582 4133.

WANTED

ALL CROCODILE items old leather luggage, trunks sporting items/militaria 0171 229 9618

MINK COATS, fox coats purchased. Best price paid. All inquiries/details to Box No 3117

ROLEX AND CARTIER high cash prices paid. Tel: 0171 409 0820 instant quote.

UK HOLIDAYS

CENTRAL London. Superior serviced apartments. Tel:0181 451 2094 / Fax 0181 459 4422

WINTER SPORTS

CHALET Bargains in our French, Austrian/Swiss resorts. Ski Total 0181 9486922 Abta/Atol

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts., hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 0181 664 2424. Retail agents. ABTA E143X

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

AFRICA seat sale - Jo'burg, Harare, Nairobi, Dar, Entebbe, Lagos and more. Booking now for Summer/Xmas. Crusader Travel - 0181 426 8444. IATA/ATOL 3548.

OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN CARMICHAEL

Sir John Carmichael, KBE, civil servant, businessman and golfer, died on January 6 aged 85. He was born on April 22, 1910.

JOHN CARMICHAEL returned to his native Scotland from Sudan in the late 1950s. The experience he had gained in Africa as a civil servant and financial and economic adviser to the first post-independence Sudanese Government made him a welcome addition to the boardrooms of several top British companies. Besides his time at Fisons — where he was chief executive, 1962-66 — he served the fishing, gas, jute and chemical industries.

Carmichael was also a first-class golfer, who played off a single-figure handicap. He could often be seen striding around the Old Course at St Andrews, and won the Royal and Ancient's Jubilee Vase there in 1964. He was captain of the Royal and Ancient, 1974-75.

John Carmichael was born in St Andrews and educated there at Madras College. He graduated from St Andrews University with first class honours in mathematics and physics. He was given his rugby Blue, and had a trial for the Scottish team. Although he never won a cap, he was a reserve on 13 occasions.

After a year on a Commonwealth Fellowship at the University of Michigan, he returned to Britain and joined Guardian Assurance. Then in 1936 he decided on a complete change of career. He joined the Sudanese Civil Service, and went out to Sudan, where his duties included a spell as Permanent Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Finance. In that post Carmichael was given a free rein to develop his business skills. He used to joke that, on one occasion during the Second World War, he was involved in selling the entire cotton crop.

Sudan was one of the few African countries to retain the service of some British civil servants after independence. Carmichael stayed on after 1956, and Ismail al-Azhari, the first Prime Minister, later fondly described him as "the white man in our woodpile". But in 1959 Carmichael returned to Scotland and bought a house at Balmullo, just outside St Andrews. There he cultivated a handsome garden, full of all the known species of heather in Scotland. He was appointed to the UK delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the following year, 1960, joined Fisons as a non-executive director, initially as chairman of its pest-control subsidiary in Sudan.

Two years later he was made chief executive of Fisons, succeeding Avison Wormald. Carmichael brought in George Burton as his deputy chief executive, and, while Burton concentrated on overseas trade, Carmichael turned his mind to the home market.

Wormald had already begun the process of diversification of Fisons interests, and Carmichael continued the process. For the past century, the Fisons market had been largely UK-based. Carmichael made it more of an international player, and he spent a good deal of time abroad, travelling with Burton to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganda. By-products to the Fisons fertiliser range were introduced, and included weedkillers, shampoos and specialised food products. While other British companies struggled through a lean period, Fisons remained in healthy shape throughout the mid-1960s. After George Burton had succeeded as chief executive in 1966, Carmichael became deputy chairman for six years, and then reverted to his old status on the board as non-executive director until 1980.

Fisons was one in a growing number of board appointments. By the late 1960s, Carmichael had been brought onto the board of Jute Industries (renamed Sidlaw Industries in 1969), and groomed by Sir William Walker, the outgoing chairman, as heir apparent. He was appointed chairman in 1970 and remained in the post for the next decade.

Carmichael's main achievement at Sidlaw was to transform it from an old-fashioned textile business, based in Dundee, to a major provider of services to the nascent oil industry in Scotland. When he arrived, jute, the product on which the business's fortunes were founded, was increasingly being provided not by Dundee companies but by those in Bangladesh and Calcutta. Diversification was the only option if the company was not to sink with the rest of the industry.

In 1972 Carmichael organised the lease (subsequently the purchase) of reclaimed land within the port area of Peterhead, north of Aberdeen. The company began to organise the logistics of the management of these ports, and so got involved, at just the right moment, in North Sea oil. The period from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s was one of substantial growth for Sidlaw, much of it attributable to Carmichael's timely initiative.

He was also chairman of the Herring Advisory Board, 1960-63, and deputy chairman of the Independent Television Authority, 1960-63. By the mid-1970s he had reduced his commitments in the South and was concentrating his energies in Scotland. He served on the boards of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Abbey National, and the Scottish Development Advisory Board. He was appointed KBE in 1955.

During his period as the Rector's assessor at St Andrews University, 1965-68, he worked with such diverse figures as C. P. Snow, Sir Learie Constantine and Lord Boothby.

Carmichael was a softly-spoken man, with a disarming, lopsided smile. He enjoyed family life, and every year took his family on holiday, sometimes less successfully than others. One year, he rented a caravan with which to tour Scotland. He reached as far as Speyside, not much north of St Andrews, before discovering that he had little idea how to reverse the cumbersome vehicle, let alone park it. Instead, he booked the entire family into the local hotel for the entire holiday.

Those who knew him well suspected that he may never have had any real intention of venturing further north than Speyside. With many good golf courses at hand, there seemed little reason to.

He is survived by his wife Cecilia, whom he married in 1940, and by one son and three daughters.

JOHN EDLIN

John Edlin, journalist, died in Johannesburg after a stroke on January 29 aged 50. He was born in Invercargill, New Zealand, on August 21, 1945.

TO THE despair of his editors — and to the delight of his readers — John Edlin decided early on in his 33-year-long career as a journalist in Africa that real stories could be gathered just as easily in bars and shebeens as by more orthodox means. But, despite achieving cult status as a heroic drinker and featuring as a thinly disguised hell-raising character in a number of excellent novels set in Africa, John Edlin always remained a fine reporter. From the Congolese uprising in 1966, where he tracked down the French mercenary leader Bob Denard and other notorious soldiers of fortune, Edlin chronicled with distinction the colonial and civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, the Rhodesian bush war and the collapse of old Cold War rivalries.

For more than three decades, he traversed independent Africa making friends and enemies of some of the most influential politicians; he was expelled from seven countries and jailed in at least two.

He witnessed mass starvation in Ethiopia in 1985 and once described how he had watched doctors marking the foreheads of children who could be saved. He asked Mother Teresa what could be done to help the others. "What are you going to do?" she said. Edlin considered the question over a beer or two, and in six months had provided start-up funds for an orphanage for 600 children outside Addis Ababa.

Divorced but childless, he had earlier funded the education of Moroccan orphans after a reporting assignment on the Saharan war and supported a children's home in Zimbabwe. His open-handed generosity extended to any of his colleagues who had fallen on hard times and to young reporters struggling to make their way. In Zimbabwe he was known as Chibhoyi, or "one of the boys" in the Shona language of the black journalists to whom he was mentor and friend.

John Edlin came to Southern Rhodesia from New Zealand in 1963 and went to work for a number of Rhodesian newspapers before leaving for Zambia and the Congo. Hired by the South African-owned Argus Africa News Service, he rebased himself in Ghana and travelled widely throughout West Africa, breaking many trips to retrace the steps of Graham Greene's *Journey without Maps*.

Edlin provided the novelist David Pownall with the model for a raucous young reporter from New Zealand, John Pyper, in his two novels set in Zambia, *The Raining Tree War* and *African Horse*.

Returning to southern Africa from Ghana in 1972, he worked for British newspapers and Reuters before becoming a full-time Associated Press correspondent in Rhodesia in 1976. At the time of his stroke on the dance floor of a nightclub in Dakar, Edlin had completed a year-long assignment teaching African journalists in Senegal.

He is survived by his mother and two brothers.

BRIGADIER BILL VICKERS

Brigadier Bill Vickers, DSO, OBE, died on January 28 aged 82. He was born on January 19, 1914.

THE challenge of commanding an infantry battalion other than one of one's own regiment is always formidable. The task faced by Bill Vickers, a tall, raw-boned man of rather gaunt aspect, was especially so. After 22 years of service exclusively with British troops, he was appointed to command 2nd Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), whose stocky, tough but unfailingly humorous soldiers stood only as high as his shoulder. This was in Hong Kong in January 1956 but the battalion was due to move to Malaya, where the eight-year-old communist insurrection still smouldered on.

Vickers commanded 2nd/2nd "Goorkhas", as they were invariably known, during two years of intensive operations against the residual hardcore of the communist terrorists, initially in Negeri Sembilan state in the south-west of the Malay peninsula. By that stage of the campaign, the tide had turned against the insurrection, thanks to the far-sighted policies of the successive Directors of Operations, Generals Sir Harold Briggs and Sir Gerald Templer.

During the second half of 1956, Vickers concentrated on the Kuala Pilah district, where operations by "A" company of the battalion, commanded by Major Grahame Vivian, acting on Special Branch information and intelligence from surrendered terrorists, killed or captured several of the key communist leaders in the area.

The following year saw 2nd/2nd Goorkhas operating in the neighbouring state of Johore, where a high proportion of the predominantly Chinese population persisted in their support of the terrorists still in the jungle. Accompanied by a Special Branch officer and only a small escort, Vickers trekked into the interior on four occasions to negotiate personally the surrender of terrorists. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1957 and the citation for his award of the DSO in 1958 read: "Lieutenant-Colonel Vickers has added to the renown and fighting traditions of his regiment and proved himself to be a fearless, skilled and determined leader. Inspired by his leadership, his men achieved many successes in jungle operations against a wary, treacherous and dangerous enemy."

Arthur William Neville Langston Vickers was born in London, the son of William C. L. Vickers, an electrical engineer. He was educated at Clifton, which he represented at cricket, rugby, fives and boxing, and entered the Royal Military College Sandhurst via a cadet scholarship in 1932. He was commissioned into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1934.

After prewar service in India and Burma with the 2nd KOYLI, Vickers was recalled to accompany the 1st Battalion to France in 1939. Later, as part of the 15th Infantry Brigade, the same battalion took part in the ill-fated British intervention in Norway. Virtually without air support, the brigade was landed near the Aandalsnes fiord on April 18, 1940, only to be withdrawn 12 days later in the face of the German advance northwestwards up the Gudbrand Valley from Oslo, strongly supported by the Luftwaffe.

After staff college in 1941 and appointments in England, he returned to regimental service as second-in-command of 4th Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry in time for the Normandy invasion. He was wounded and evacuated, only to return as soon as he had recovered, this time in command of the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment in the 43rd Wessex Division, which saw stiff fighting in Holland and Germany in the winter of 1944-45.

He was appointed OBE in 1945 in recognition of his war service and posted to the Staff College, Camberley, as an instructor in 1948. Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, he was appointed AA & QMG of the 1st Commonwealth Division. The years 1951-52 were the grimmest of this gruelling war, during which Vickers was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the United States Bronze Star. A brief period with 2nd KOYLI was followed by brevet promotion to lieutenant-colonel, a period on the Allied Staff in Berlin and then command of 2nd/2nd Gurkha Rifles.

Following his successful period in command, he was promoted colonel and served on the Nato staff of Allied Forces Central Europe and as an instructor at the RAF Staff College, before being appointed Inspector of Intelligence and Commandant of the Joint Services Intelligence Centre in the rank of brigadier. He retired from the Army in 1967 but remained in government service, engaged in security work, until 1970.

For eight years he served as general secretary of the Soil Association, working with E. F. Schmacher and Lady Eve Balfour. For many years during his retirement he was an active member of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, but was able to find time to play single-figure handicap golf and local cricket in and around Harleston in Norfolk, where he had made his home.

He is survived by his wife Joan, whom he married in 1939, and by their two sons and two daughters.

JAMES HOLLAND

James Holland, OBE, one of the designers of the 1951 Festival of Britain, died on January 7 aged 90. He was born in Gillingham, Kent, on September 19, 1905.

HIS students will remember James Holland as a fine teacher, his colleagues as a gifted painter, illustrator and designer, his family and friends as a man of conscience — but history will remember him for his major contribution to the 1951 Festival of Britain.

Born in Kent, James Sylvester Holland was the son of a naval blacksmith and never lost his love of the sea. After going to school at the Mathematical School, Rochester, and studying painting at the Rochester School of Art, where he returned later as a governor, he won a rare painting scholarship to the Royal College of Art in 1924. His tutor was Paul Nash and contemporaries there included Henry Moore, with whom Holland worked at one time, and the Canadian painter James Boswell. He and Boswell became lifelong friends, and together they made a number of trips to France, where Holland held his first exhibition before he graduated.

Leaving the Royal College of Art, Holland was immediately offered an art directorship with Foote Cone & Belding, working on a number of top advertising accounts such as Shell, Imperial Airways and the Empire Marketing Board. He went on to establish himself as a freelance artist and was much in demand.

With war on the horizon, Holland, together with Boswell and another artist James Fitton, set up the influential Artists International Association, a pacifist organisation of artists. During the war Holland worked at the Ministry of Information, mainly on exhibition design, and it was here that he acquired the skills that were to equip him for his job in the design group of the 1951 Festival of Britain. He joined the team in 1948 at a time of rationing and acute shortage of materials.

The Ministry of Works had looked at the South Bank site and declared it an impossible task. The design team not only took on the task but decided that each should design a section of the site. With his maritime background it was natural that Holland should choose "Sea and Ships". To his further delight, the First Lord of the Admiralty offered him the aircraft carrier *Campania* to tour Britain as a floating exhibition hall of which Holland was the designer in charge. The Festival design team met formally at least twice a week and then afterwards for informal suppers. Each member of the group had specific responsibilities but all the major decisions were the group's joint effort.

That the ambitious exhibition opened on time, was so well attended and was so much fun was in no small part due to the experience and skill of the design team, who remained as close friends at the completion of the job as when they began. When the exhibition closed Holland was appointed OBE.

He was president of the Chartered Society of Designers, 1960-61, and shortly afterwards he was appointed group art director at Erwin Wasey Advertising. In 1963 he accepted the offer to return to teaching as head of graphic design at Birmingham Polytechnic. In 1971, on his retirement from Birmingham, Holland became education officer at the Chartered Society of Designers and he used his experience to help design courses to become more professional. During this period he wrote *Minerva at Fifty*, a history of the society.

Holland is survived by his second wife Jacqueline, two daughters from his first marriage and a son and a daughter from his second.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

GERMANY Daily low cost flights. 0181 429 2900. Visa/ Access. ABTA 90686. ATOL.

FLIGHTS
All European & Worldwide Dest Available
VICEROY AIR INTERNATIONAL
01476 74111

CAPITAL FLIGHTS

Portugal	59	USA	129
Spain	59	Canada	179
Canaries	59	Caribbean	189
Ski Flights	89	Africa	295
Greece	89	Far East	320
Cyprus	89	S.America	349
Israel	99	Australia	450

ALL EUROPEAN & WORLDWIDE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
0171 209 4000
6560

ALL WORLDWIDE & EUROPEAN BEST AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT RATE
Tel: 01273 700737

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd: 0171-730 2201. ABTA 28703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

VACATION TRAVEL

FARO	59	PALMA	59
MALAGA	65	GREECE	59
ALICANTE	59	MALTA	59
TENERIFE	79	TURKEY	119
LAS PALMAS	79	ISRAEL	129
LANZAROTE	79	CYPRUS	119

All Worldwide destinations avail.
0800 371855

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

TRAILFINDERS
Low cost flights worldwide
AND UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR RENTAL
Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service
LONDON Longhaul: 0171-938 3366
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444
BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234
BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000
GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTRY HOUSES Association has apartments available for retired people. For information write to CHA, Freepost, London, WC2B 6BR.

DESPERATE for a baby, you could help a loving couple have a much longed for baby by donating a few of your eggs. If you are a woman under 36 please call nurse Jane at the London Gynaecology & fertility centre on 0171 224 0707 quoting ref 07926 thank you.

JAMES JOHNSTON ABRAHAMS If JB, his daughter, contacted me on 01386 231386. I would be immensely grateful.

Kidney Research Saves Lives
Please help with a donation now and a legacy later
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND
3 Archers Court, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon, PE18 6XG.
Registered Charity No. [illegible]

HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS
Donations are urgently needed to enable us to buy more houses and rescue more families in urgent need of support. Help us face the problems of homelessness by naming Church Housing Trust as a beneficiary in your Will. Details from
CHURCH HOUSING TRUST
Sutherland House
70-78 West Hendon Broadway
London NW9 7BT

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during and since the last war; and today, wherever conflict arises.
Every year approximately £10 million is spent in assisting some 20,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your Will.
Will you rise to the challenge, too?
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
DEPT. TT, 67 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AR.

Remember The Donkeys And We'll Remember You!
Over 6,700 donkeys have been taken into care many from lives tormented by cruelty and neglect. A donkey is never turned away from our Sanctuary and never put down unless there is no longer any quality of life.
We need your help to continue rescuing donkeys and to secure their future on one of our nine farms. A bequest to the donkeys will help immensely and your name will be inscribed on our Memory Wall and will be blessed at our annual St Francis Day Memorial Service.
A copy of our "Guide to Making a Will" is available on request.
The Donkey Sanctuary,
(Dept TM), Sidmouth,
Devon, EX10 0NU.
Tel: (01395) 578222
Enquiries to Dr E. D. Svendsen, MBE
Reg. Charity No. 264818

ON THIS DAY

February 2, 1955

T. E. Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, became a legend in his lifetime, but there were always those who regarded his accounts of his career with some scepticism. Among these was the poet and novelist Richard Aldington.

LAWRENCE AND HIS LEGEND

RICHARD ALDINGTON: *Lawrence of Arabia. A Biographical Enquiry*. 448pp. Collins. 25s.

The title of the French edition of Mr Aldington's book — *Lawrence l'Imposteur* — more frankly acknowledges its character than the sub-title of the English: a "biographical enquiry". He has searched the already published literature by and about Lawrence for every scrap of material that can be turned to his victim's discredit.

Lawrence is vulnerable to this kind of attack. A great popular legend was built up for him in the early 1920s, and inflated with anecdotes many of which today seem not only false but foolish. Mr Aldington adduces evidence to show that Lawrence, while publicly deprecating the growth of the legend, privately connived at it. In truth, vanity, of the kind that "backed into the limelight", was Lawrence's besetting weakness; some of his warmest admirers have acknowledged it: he himself was conscious of it, castigated himself for it, and could not escape from it. But no one who ever sat up into the small hours while Lawrence piled up tales of fantastic adventure, and noticed the look of slight disdain that came into his eyes if the listener seemed to be accepting the improbabilities too literally, will turn to the *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* for a precise record of the course of the desert campaign.

It does not follow, however, that the military value of the Arab revolt was insignificant and the credit for such success as it achieved stolen by Lawrence from other men, which is Mr Aldington's thesis. We have the testimony of Colonel Stirling, Staff Officer with the Arab forces, that: "Lawrence took the limelight from those of us professional soldiers who were fortunate enough to serve with him, but never once have I heard a whisper of jealousy. We sensed that we were serving with a man immeasurably our superior."

Mr Aldington opens with what he chooses to call "research", that Lawrence was born out of wedlock — a fact that any of Lawrence's friends, or Lawrence himself in his lifetime, would have given him for the asking.

Much play is made with the evidence that he was not offered the appointment of High Commissioner to Egypt in 1925. Attention is thus diverted from the very strong evidence (not depending upon Lawrence's word) that he was sounded about taking the same office in 1922 by Mr Winston Churchill, under whom he was then serving in the Colonial Office. Again, when Mr Aldington admits that "he was offered by a banker, and refused, a position in the City of London," is it not a little disingenuous not to mention that the banker was Montagu Norman, and the position that of Secretary of the Bank of England?

But, as has been said, Lawrence's greatness is not to be assessed by details. To Mr Aldington it is a myth fabricated by "the Lawrence Bureau". We have to consider who the Lawrence Bureau were. The Arab Revolt was, as Lawrence himself said only the sideshow of a sideshow. Yet, for its great importance to the larger campaign the witness is Allenby, the commander-in-chief; for Lawrence's unique leadership and fitness for the highest command, Wavell; for his capacity for the greatest civilian offices, Sir Winston Churchill; for his scholarship, Hogarth, Sir Leonard Woolley, and Sir Ernest Barker; for his literary skill, Wells and Sir Winston Churchill again; for his paladin quality as an adversary, Clemenceau. It is permissible to prefer the judgment of the Lawrence Bureau to Mr Aldington's.

His worst enemy does not think Lawrence a dull subject: and Mr Aldington is not usually a dull writer. But he has managed to write an uncommonly dull book.

NEWS

Tories rule out leadership poll

■ Senior Conservatives capitalised on improved party morale by formally ruling out any challenge to John Major's leadership before the next general election.

The surprise move came after a series of strong question time performances by the Prime Minister exploiting the Harriet Harman affair, and as the Labour leader himself acknowledged the gains the Tories had reaped .... **Page 1**

Internet shopping boom forecast

■ The Internet is set to become a multi-billion pound world superstore. Two leading credit card companies announced that they have developed a way of making safe payments over the electronic computer network that encircles the globe. The computer purchase of goods could grow from a £350 million-a-year business to £200 billion .... **Page 1**

Dog judgment

A tearful and acrimonious battle over the ownership of J.J, a potentially valuable Irish setter pup was decided when a judge agreed it could remain with the couple who bought it .... **Page 1**

Paying the piper

Thousands of composers and songwriters have been deprived of income by inefficiency and poor management at the Performing Rights Society, said a government report............ **Page 1**

Missing doctors

Hospital casualty departments are facing the worst shortage of doctors in living memory and are struggling to keep their doors open, said the BMA.......... **Page 2**

Firemen killed

Two part-time firemen died inside a blazing house in the former mining village of Blaina, Gwent, after wrongly being told a young boy was trapped inside .... **Page 3**

Royal accountant

The post of the Keeper of the Privy Purse is going to Michael Peat, a former partner in the accounts, KPMG................ **Page 5**

Church pensions

The Anglican Church's 1.5 million regular attenders will be expected to dig deeper in their pockets to fund the clergy's pensions under proposals to go before the General Synod next week.............................. **Page 6**

Dawn exhumation

Police exhumed the body of the man they believe to be Scotland's most notorious killer at dawn in a snow-covered cemetery .... **Page 7**

Harman row

The row over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school provoked a series of bitter internal rows in her constituency Labour party at Camberwell....... **Page 10**

Birthday unrest

Half a million miners chose President Yeltsin's 65th birthday to go on a nationwide strike in an echo of the industrial action that helped to bring down Mikhail Gorbachev...................... **Page 11**

Airline dispute

The British Government may mount a legal challenge to the European Commission's decision to let Iberia, Spain's national airline, receive another £440 million in state aid .... **Page 12**

Chirac's charter

President Chirac, on the first state visit to America by a French leader in 12 years, proposed a charter to reform Nato.............. **Page 13**

Dole gaffe

Robert Dole's handlers arranged for the 72-year-old presidential candidate to visit a brewery then tried to cancel when they discovered it produced a beer called "Old Man Ale"............... **Page 13**

Wedge-shaped UFO over Manchester

■ A British Airways jet had a close encounter with an unidentified flying object while landing at Manchester. The Boeing 737 was overtaken at high speed by a wedge-shaped craft. Captain Roger Wills reported that the UFO, emblazoned with small white lights and possibly a black stripe, flashed so close that his co-pilot ducked.. **Page 1**

NORMAN CLARK

The Princess Royal examines bales of wool at a shearing shed during her visit to Goose Green in the Falkland Islands

BUSINESS

PPP: The private healthcare insurance group is poised to shed its provident status and turn itself into a limited company valued at an estimated £500 million. The move could pave the way for an eventual stockmarket flotation......... **Page 21**

Economy: Production from British manufacturers hit its lowest point for three years, leading to the first decline in manufacturing employment for two years............ **Page 21**

Retail: Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, is set to expand his empire with the purchase of Saxone and Curtess....... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 6.5 to 3752.8. Sterling rose from 83.3 to 83.6 after rises from $1.5110 to $1.5127 and from DM2.2476 to DM2.2597 .... **Page 24**

SPORT

Football: Roger Stanislaus, of Leyton Orient, was banned for one year by the FA after being found guilty of using a performance-enhancing drug .... **Page 40**

Cricket: Australia may forfeit their first game in the World Cup unless the venue is changed from Colombo. A decision will be made early next week .... **Page 40**

Rugby union: For all the talk of expansive play the primary objective for England and Wales in the five nations' championship match at Twickenham tomorrow will be to win.............................. **Page 40**

Skiing: The Great Britain women's alpine skiing team have returned to the Tyrolean mountains that claimed the life of Kirsteen McGibbon......................... **Page 38**

ARTS

Taste of Bacon: As an unknown self-portrait by Francis Bacon is unveiled to the public for the first time, Richard Cork assesses its importance as a work of art .. **Page 29**

Terrible theatrical death: *Fields of Ambrosia*, an American musical set on Death Row, really is as ghastly as it sounds, says Benedict Nightingale .... **Page 29**

Italy's finest: Crooner Paolo Conte may not be a household name in Britain but he is now bringing his Italian charms to the Barbican .... **Page 30**

Youthful twin track: The chart wannabes Gemini, twin brothers, have found a novel way to get their musical message across to the young: they are taking it into the schools .... **Page 31**

[illegible]

Valerie Grove meets Thomas Quasthoff, the singer who received tumultuous applause at the Wigmore Hall this week. "I am blessed," he says — but he was born with no arms and stunted legs.................................. **Page 14**

Smack: When the film *Trainspotting* comes out later this month, people who know nothing about it will come forward to give their opinions on drug addiction. But just what is the depressing reality? .... **Page 15**

EDUCATION

Driven to revolt: Today, Vice-Chancellors will decide whether to charge new students a levy of £300 — a first step towards paying for higher education............. **Page 33**

Tricks of the exam trade: How to choose a tutorial college for Easter revision, and get the most out of it .... **Page 33**

[illegible]

Nato must cease being a simple tool of American policy, under instruction from the Pentagon. The US must accept the development, in the heart of the alliance, of a real European defence identity. Jacques Chirac has been arguing this case for a long time. But today the US cannot suspect him of conspiring to chase the Americans out of Europe, as de Gaulle was often suspected of doing — *Le Figaro*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ EAT OUT FOR £5
Lunch, or dinner, for as little as £5 —
see *The Times* on Saturday for details and first voucher

■ PLUS ...
Jonathan Meades reviews six of the best restaurants on offer

[illegible]

Preview: A solar-powered rickshaw could be the transport of the future: *Tomorrow's World in Bombay* (BBC1, 7.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond checks out a political drinking-hole..................... **Page 39**

OPINION

Spanish malpractice

Powers to police state subsidies are among the strongest that the Commission has. Why should national Governments grant it any increased powers at this year's review of the Maastricht treaty when existing powers are used in such an anti-European way?.......... **Page 17**

Degree quality

Support seems solid among vice-chancellors for a proposal to charge £300 as the price of a place at university. The proposal, though crude, has one merit: it focuses attention on the need for further reform in academia........... **Page 17**

Young masters

An unknown self-portrait by Francis Bacon, painted when he was only 21, has just been discovered in a private collection of paintings. This is a significant discovery, for Bacon destroyed much of his own youthful work .... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

Arthur Scargill is very close to making himself a fool; his new party will get a handful of votes — about the same number as Lord Sutch — and his new "party" will wither on the vine.............. **Page 16**

SIMON BARNES

It was the Australians who first called the settlers from England whinging Poms. But this eternal complaint about the Poms is itself a kind of whinge.................. **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

The debate about MPs' pay is much broader than review bodies, or even salary levels. It is about what sort of MPs we want......... **Page 10**

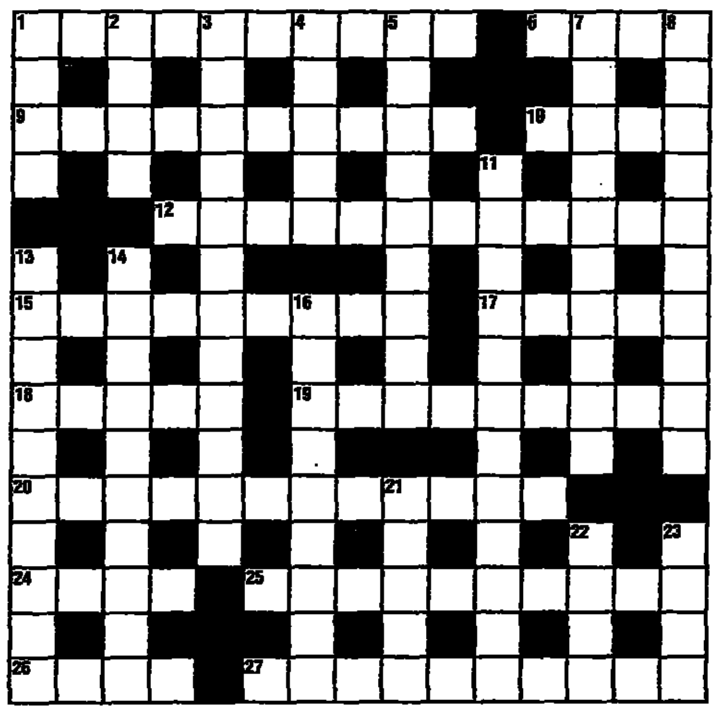
OBITUARIES

Sir John Carmichael, civil servant and businessman; **John Edlin**, journalist; **Brigadier Bill Vickers**; **James Holland**, a designer of the Festival of Britain .... **Page 19**

LETTERS

Solutions to university funding crisis; MPs demand for pay rise; treatment for backache; ghostly smells........................... **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,080



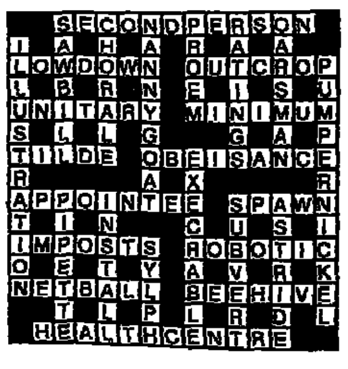
ACROSS

1 Direction given to people to find place for meeting (10).
6 Retired judge gets old-fashioned reward (4).
9 Imperative exercise taken by soldiers and politicians (10).
10 A point lower — and lighter (4).
12 Choice of words in men's curses (12).
15 Suspended, perhaps, but under control (2,1,6).
17 Better part of Venice ruined (5).
18 Breed fish, so to speak (5).
19 Phone repair workers, achieving first-class marvellous things (9).
20 Striker in old conflict has to find accommodation for workers (12).
24 Informally opposed to taking a drink (4).
25 Junior officer, discovered holding flight, finally took off (10).
26 Fare out East (4).
27 Farmer worked in situation where it's always very cold (10).

DOWN

1 Soundly packaged and transported (4).
2 Blacken part of Ireland (4).
3 Criticisms about separate cells (12).
4 North American policeman loses little time getting free (5).
5 Almost certain to get a run, say — it's a cinch! (9).
7 Trespassed in the heart of Kent and instructed to cross river (10).
8 Lower class going with current trend (10).
11 Rugby player to suspend before part of match? (5-3,4).
13 Boundary to settle and put on solid footing (4-6).
14 I stumped banker, for example (10).
16 Insist on getting answer from umpire — not out (9).
21 Met to change clan's image (5).
22 Holy Roman Emperor looking exactly the same in mirror (4).
23 Work on newspaper when opportunity arises (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,079



SECONDPERSON
I A H A R A A
LOWDOWN OUTCROP
L B R N E I S U
UNITARY MINIMUM
S L L G G A P
TILDE OBEISANCE
R A X R
APPOINTEE SPAWN
T I N C U S I
IMPOSTS ROBOTIC
O E T Y A V R K
NETBALL BEEHIVE
T L P L R D L
HEALTHCENTRE

Times Two Crossword, page 40

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1996. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Knowsley Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Friday, February 2, 1996. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.39 am	4.51 pm
Moon sets	**Moon rises**
5.54 am	3.10 pm

Full moon February 4

London 4.51 pm to 7.37 am
Bristol 5.01 pm to 7.47 am
Edinburgh 4.47 pm to 8.05 am
Manchester 4.52 pm to 7.52 am
Penzance 5.17 pm to 7.54 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a largely dry day with most cloud in the east. There will be bright or sunny spells across many areas. Fog or freezing fog patches may linger in places. Widespread frost will return overnight. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry, brightest in the west.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands:** bright spells, mainly dry, isolated fog. Wind NE mainly light. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cloudy, mainly dry. Wind NE light. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

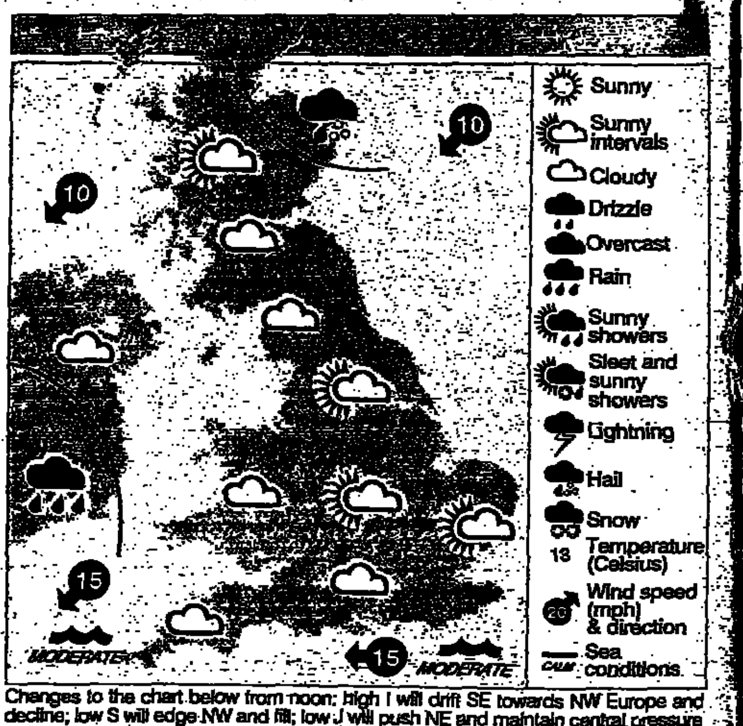
☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, IoM:** bright spells. Fog patches. Mainly dry. Wind NE light. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** bright spells. Mostly dry. Fog patches. Wind NE light. Cold. Max 6C (43F).

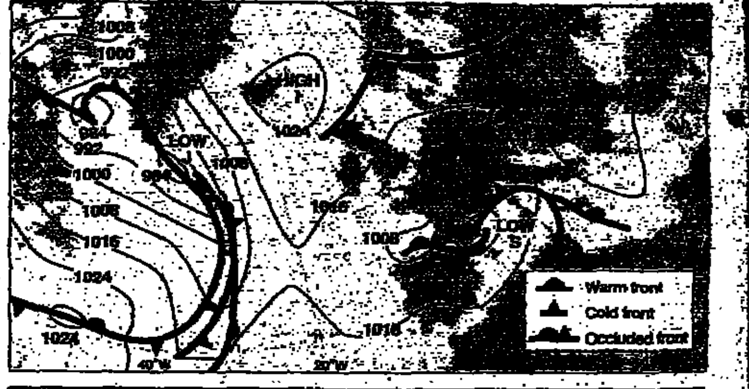
☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, scattered sleet or snow. Wind NE mainly light. Cold. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** bright spells. Mainly dry. Wind NE light. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

Outlook for weekend: mostly dry but light rain in west on Sunday.



Changes to the chart below from noon: high I will drift SE towards NW Europe and decline; low S will edge NW and fill; low J will push NE and maintain central pressure



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	3	37	du	Leuchars	0.1	-	3	37	c
Anglesey	7.7	-	5	41	s	Littlehmptn	6.6	-	7	45	s
Aspatria	7.2	-	3	37	s	Liverpool	3.8	-	2	36	b
Aviemore	4.0	-	2	36	b	London	7.7	-	7	45	s
Belfast	7.3	-	5	41	s	Lowestoft	6.9	-	4	39	s
Birmingham	0.1	-	1	34	c	Manchester	4.4	-	3	37	fg
Bognor R	6.3	-	6	43	s	Margate	8.0	-	3	37	s
Bournem'th	-	-	4	39	c	Minehead	-	-	1	34	c
Bristol	1.0	-	3	37	c	Morecambe	7.2	-	5	41	s
Buxton	-	-	-1	30	c	Newcastle	-	-	3	37	c
Cardiff	1.9	-	2	36	b	Newquay	-	-	5	41	c
Clacton	7.2	-	3	37	s	Norwich	6.7	-	5	41	s
Cleethorpes	X					Nottingham	X				
Colwyn Bay	7.4	-	3	37	s	Oxford	X				
Cromer	7.3	-	4	39	s	Penzance	-	-	6	43	du
Dunbar	X					Poole	-	-	3	37	c
Eastbourne	6.8	-	5	41	s	Prestatyn	X	-	1	34	s
Edinburgh	-	-	3	37	du	Ross-o-wye	3.8	-	3	37	b
Eskdalemuir	1.1	-	1	34	c	Sandown	0.5	-	5	41	c
Exmouth	-	-	3	37	du	Sauntn Snd	0.2	-	3	37	c
Falmouth	-	-	7	45	c	Scarboro'	X				
Fishguard	8.1	-	4	39	s	Shanklin	-	-	5	41	c
Folkestone	7.9	-	4	39	s	Shrewsbury	-	-	1	34	du
Glasgow	-	-	3	37	c	Skegness	1.1	-	3	37	c
Guernsey	3.9	-	9	48	s	Southend	5.7	-	4	39	s
Hastings	7.5	-	4	39	s	Southport	X				
Hayling I	3.3	-	5	41	s	Southsea	2.3	-	5	41	b
Herne Bay	7.3	-	3	37	s	Stornoway	2.0	-	6	43	b
Hove	5.8	-	6	43	s	Swanage	-	-	5	41	c
Hunstanton	7.8	-	4	39	s	Teignmouth	-	-	4	39	du
Ilfracombe	-	-	2	36	du	Tiree	2.7	-	6	43	b
Isle of Man	7.6	-	5	41	s	Torquay	-	-	6	43	c
Jersey	6.3	-	8	46	s	Tynemouth	-	-	4	39	c
Kinloss	1.8	-	3	37	b	Ventnor	1.3	-	6	43	b
Leeds	-	-	3	37	c	Weston-s-mare	X				
Lerwick	-	0.04	3	37	r	Weymouth	-	-	4	39	c

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	f	C'phagn	-3	27	c	Malaga	18	64	c	S Paulo	26	79	f
Akrotiri	18	64	s	Dublin	4	39	s	Malta	14	57	r	Salzburg	-3	27	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Melb'rne	19	66	c	Santiago	26	79	s
Algiers	20	68	f	Faro	14	57	r	Mexico C	19	66	s	Seoul	-6	21	f
Amst'dm	2	36	s	Florence	11	52	s	Miami	27	81	f	Sing'por	25	77	r
Athens	5	41	f	Frankfurt	1	34	s	Milan	4	39	c	St'kholm	-6	21	s
B Aires	30	86	c	Funchal	18	64	c	Montreal	-16	3	-	Strasb'rg	0	32	s
Bahrain	23	73	s	Geneva	1	34	c	Moscow	-9	16	c	Sydney	27	81	s
Bangkok	27	81	f	Gibraltar	15	59	r	Munich	1	34	s	Tangier	17	63	c
Barbados	29	84	s	Helsinki	-1	30	c	N Delhi	19	66	f	Tel Aviv	18	64	f
Barcelona	10	50	c	Hong K	19	66	s	N York	-4	25	sn	Tenerife	21	70	f
Beirut	19	66	f	Innsbrck	3	37	s	Nairobi	27	81	s	Tokyo	5	41	c
Belgrade	-3	27	s	Istanbul	1	34	sn	Naples	15	59	s	Toronto	-11	12	c
Berlin	-2	28	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	5	41	r	Tunis	17	63	f
Bermuda	19	66	r	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	-8	18	c	Valencia	11	52	r
Biarritz	X			Karachi	X			Paris	4	39	s	Vanc'ver	X		
Borde'x	10	50	s	L Angels	13	55	r	Peking	2	36	s	Venice	5	41	s
Brussels	2	36	s	L Palmas	19	66	c	Perth	31	88	s	Vienna	-7	19	s
Budapst	-3	27	s	Le Touqt	4	39	s	Prague	-7	19	s	Warsaw	-1	30	f
Cairo	22	72	s	Lisbon	14	57	f	Reykjavik	-4	25	s	Wash'ton	-1	30	f
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	3	37	c	Rhodes	13	55	s	Wel'ngton	23	73	-
Ch'church	20	68	-	Luxembg	-1	30	c	Rio de J	30	86	s	Zurich	-4	25	s
Chicago	-17	1	s	Luxor	28	82	s	Riyadh	24	75	s				
Cologne	2	36	s	Madrid	8	46	r	Rome	12	54	s				
Corfu	14	57	s	Majorca	15	59	f	S Frisco	11	52	r				

local time X = not available

Temperatures at midday

[illegible]

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:07	6.3	12:36	6.4	Leith	1:02	4.7	1:24	5.0
Aberdeen	-	-	12:09	4.0	Liverpool	9:59	8.6	10:21	8.6
Avonmouth	5:36	11.7	6:02	11.9	Lowestoft	8:24	2.2	8:16	2.4
Belfast	10:00	3.3	10:25	3.1	Margate	10:59	4.2	11:13	4.3
Cardiff	5:21	10.7	5:45	10.7	Milford Haven	4:54	6.1	5:15	6.1
Devonport	4:09	4.9	4:33	4.8	Newquay	3:34	5.8	3:55	5.8
Dover	9:59	5.9	10:18	6.1	Oban	4:19	3.4	4:52	3.5
Dublin (N Wall)	10:27	3.8	10:47	3.8	Penzance	3:25	4.9	3:44	4.9
Falmouth	3:26	4.8	3:45	4.4	Portland	4:55	1.7	5:26	1.8
Greenock	11:21	3.3	-	-	Portsmouth	9:58	4.3	10:31	4.3
Harwich	10:25	3.5	10:45	3.6	Shoreham	10:00	5.5	10:27	5.6
Holyhead	9:11	5.1	9:29	4.9	Southampton	8:30	4.2	8:59	4.2
Hull (Albert D)	4:45	6.2	5:01	6.7	Swansea	5:01	8.3	5:25	8.6
Ilfracombe	4:36	8.2	5:00	8.3	Tees	2:15	4.5	2:40	4.7
King's Lynn	4:54	5.6	5:12	5.8	Walton-on-Naze	10:24	3.8	10:41	3.9

Crown copyright reserved. All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.04in; highest sunshine: Fishguard, Dyfed, 8.1hr.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.
For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.